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MIC-Lunas

SAMY VELLU TO DECIDE ON LUNAS CANDIDATE AFTER OVERSEAS TRIP

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu will decide on the party's candidate for the Lunas state seat in Kedah only on returning from an official trip overseas, MIC secretary-general G. Sothinathan said today.

As such it was premature to speculate on the potential candidate as Samy Vellu would have to evaluate the situation first and that so far the party headquarters had not gathered any names yet, he said.

"The final decision will only be made after the MIC president speaks to the PM about it," Sothinathan told Bernama today.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, is in Rome attending an international conference on intelligent road transport, and is scheduled to return home this weekend.

He is expected to pick a few names before submitting them to Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for final endorsement.

The seat fell vacant following the murder of the assemblyman Dr Joe Fernandez in Bukit Mertajam last week.

Yesterday, Kedah BN chairman and Menteri Besar Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain said there was no guarantee that the BN would still field a candidate from the MIC despite Lunas being a traditional MIC seat.

Sothinathan said based on the track record of the late Dr Fernandez in the constituency, the BN should not have problems retaining the seat.

In the 1999 general election, Dr Fernandez defeated M. Kathiravelo of the DAP by a 4,700-vote majority in a four-cornered fight also involving two independent candidates.

The constituency has an electorate of 24,481.

-- BERNAMA

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