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Samy Vellu yet to decide on Teluk Kemang candidate

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - MIC will announce its candidate for the Teluk Kemang parliamentary constituency in Negri Sembilan after the Election Commission has announced the date for the by-election.

Party president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said he had not decided on the candidate but added that the person would be young, active, well qualified and one who could be the future leader of the community.

"I will have to look for a candidate who can meet these criteria. I'm keeping an open mind. I may be able to decide in the next few days," he told reporters after officiating the Tamil Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia.

The Teluk Kemang parliamentary seat fell vacant following the death of its MP and Health Ministry Parliamentary Secretary S.A. Anpalagan last Friday.

"The candidate should also strive to achieve the objectives of the party and also understand the aspirations of Malaysians as well the Malaysian Indian community.

"I have to pick the candidate carefully because MIC has been holding the constituency for many years," he said.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said it was easy to become an MP but difficult to be a responsible MP, present oneself well in Parliament and take care of the wellbeing of all constituents.

He said once the selection was made, the name would be submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Barisan Nasional chairman.

Two names have already been mentioned for the seat. They are Samy Vellu's political secretary S. Sothinathan, who hails from Port Dickson in the Teluk Kemang constituency, and MIC Youth chief Datuk Nelson Renganathan.

On the appointment of a new Health Ministry Parliamentary Secretary, Samy Vellu said he would only decide after the by-election.

Only two of MIC's seven MPs remain without a Federal post. They are Subang MP Tan Sri K.S. Nijhar and Kapar MP Komala Krishnamoorthy.

Going by Samy Vellu's requirement of a young and vibrant candidate, Komala stands a better chance unless the president reserves the position for the Teluk Kemang candidate, should BN win the by-election.

Earlier, when addressing the 2,000-odd participants at the conference, Samy Vellu said religion could play an important role in overcoming many social problems besetting the younger generation.

As such, Samy Vellu said, Christians in the country should embark on programmes to educate the younger generation on social problems and meet the challenges ahead.

The Tabernacle of Glory church, where the function was held, also donated RM5,000 for the Malaysian Indian Education Development fund. (see CORRECTION above)

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