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Samy Vellu: Candidate for Teluk Kemang picked

PORT DICKSON, Wed. - The MIC has picked its candidate for the June 10 Teluk Kemang by-election and is awaiting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's approval.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said he could not reveal the proposed candidate's identity yet.

He said he would brief Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad on the matter soon. Mohamad Isa had earlier stated that the name of the candidate would be announced after the Umno general assembly.

Samy Vellu said the name and particulars of the candidate, who was picked from a list of 10 persons from Negri Sembilan, were handed to Dr Mahathir yesterday.

It is strongly rumoured that the candidate is Samy Vellu's political secretary S. Sothinathan, 40.

Sothinathan had been seen assisting Samy Vellu at his meetings and visits to the constituency since last week. He, however, vehemently denies that he has been chosen to contest the seat.

Asked about a State MIC member who is believed to have resigned from the party to stand as an independent candidate at Teluk Kemang, Samy Vellu said this was a stunt commonly seen in any election.

He said it was obvious that someone had instigated the man, who is an ordinary member of the Taman Panchor Jaya MIC branch, to take such action.

"During elections, we see many stunts and we are not worried. When compared to the BN, people will know that such individuals can do nothing for them."

Samy Vellu said: "When the candidate loses his deposit in the election and realises that the person who instigated him is not going to compensate him, then he will write to the MIC."

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