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IPF members made decision 'in their best interest'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Indian Progressive Front president Datuk M.G. Pandithan said today the decision by members against dissolving the party was taken in realisation of their political rights and in their best interests.

He rebutted all allegations by MIC and People's Progressive Party presidents Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Datuk M. Kayveas respectively that the entire voting process yesterday was merely a stage show which had been planned by him (Pandithan).

"They can say anything they want. The members have made their decision and both Samy Vellu and Kayveas should learn to respect it," he said.

Of the 2,949 delegates who voted yesterday whether the party be disbanded and the members join either the MIC or PPP, 2,945 decided they should remain as it is.

Only one vote each was cast in favour of joining MIC and PPP while there were two spoilt votes. Pandithan abstained from voting at the party's ninth general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre.

On the future of IPF, Pandithan said he would leave it to the political wisdom of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The political climate is fast changing and we are confident the Barisan Nasional needs a workforce such as ours which is willing to work relentlessly for the BN without any rewards whatsoever."

He said he would also be writing to Samy Vellu soon to arrange a meeting to seek his advice on how both parties could work effectively to help the Indian community.

"He (Samy Vellu) must understand that he is a party president just like me and merging will never be a workable solution.

"Calling yesterday's voting process a stage drama was uncalled for and even I could say that the invitations to merge by both Samy Vellu and Kayveas were also nothing more than mere dramas."

He said he never expected such an overwhelming outcome from the members and anticipated a division between those who wanted to merge with either the MIC or PPP and those who wanted IPF to remain as it is.

Pandithan said it was time Samy Vellu put his superiority complex aside and stopped thinking that everyone else, especially the IPF was inferior.

"Just because the IPF is a poor party, no one should consider it as inferior and incapable of anything.

"It is time Samy Vellu saw both sides of the coin and understood that it was the interests of the Indians which should be given priority," he added.

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