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Samy-Post

MIC TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY POST

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- The MIC will ask the Government for an additional parliamentary secretary post for its woman representative following the creation of the Women and Family Development Ministry in January.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today that he would write to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the additional post for the party after failing to get one after the 1999 General Election.

"After the 1999 General Election, we made representation but our request was not entertained because many parties also requested," he told reporters after chairing the party's Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting here.

Samy, the Works Minister and the only Cabinet member from the MIC, said after the general election, he had asked the Government for another ministerial post and a woman parliamentary secretary.

The MIC now has two deputy ministers and two parliamentary secretaries -- all men.

The deputy ministers are Datuk S.Subramaniam (Domestic Trade and Consumers Affairs) and Datuk G.Palanivel of the Rural Development Ministry.

The two parliamentary secretaries are Datuk P.Veerasingam (National Unity and Social Development Ministry) and S.Sothinathan of the Health Ministry.

Besides MIC, the Wanita MCA Wanita also had asked the Government to appoint its representative as Deputy Minister in the Women and Family Development Ministry headed by Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

The ministry, initially named Women's Affairs Ministry, was set up on Jan 17.

On party matters, Samy said the MIC would amend the party's Constitution this year, doing away with the current presidential appointment process for youth and women leaders at state and national level.

"I want them to be elected so that they will be responsible and answerable to those who had elected them," he added.

Samy also announced that the MIC would hold its two-day general assembly in Johor Baharu City from May 19.

-- BERNAMA

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