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MIC to focus on youths' woes

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DELEGATES to the MIC Youth assembly today are expected to discuss the problem of a mismatch between university courses applied for by Indian youths and those they were eventually allocated.

MIC Youth head Datuk Nelson Renganathan told The New Straits Times that the movement would table a resolution urging the Government to recognise the problem and take appropriate steps to address it.

"The problem arises when students are offered courses which are not among the five they applied for.

"Thus, students often end up with courses which they are least interested in or courses which do not suit them," he said.

Describing this as a mismatch of courses, Nelson said the resolution, if approved by the 650 delegates, would be forwarded to the party central working committee and the Government.

"The Government should streamline the system of awarding courses as many students are unhappy about the situation," he said.

Nelson said undergraduates faced problems finding jobs once they graduated because of this mismatch.

The one-day assembly is being held at the Putra World Trade Centre.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu will deliver a keynote address at the joint opening of the Youth and Wanita assemblies.

Both movements will then adjourn to their respective meetings. There will be a special keynote address for youth members by Barisan Nasional Youth chairman Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, while Barisan Nasional Wanita chairman Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz will address Wanita MIC members.

Nelson said the other nine resolutions would focus on the economy, youth needs, sports and the proposed national service for all.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently said the Government may propose compulsory national service for non-Bumiputeras if their participation in the Armed Forces remained low.

Nelson said the proposed national service should cover all races and not non-Bumiputera's alone.

"It is a good move as such service would instill discipline among youths. It will be beneficial for all," Nelson said.

Another "interesting" resolution is the one focusing on politicking in sports.

"There's far too much politicking in sports at the expense of youths in the country. Youths are becoming demoralised due to this and the future of sports in the country is being jeopardised.

"Sports is very important as it can be a tool for racial integration. Disillusionment among youths affects sports development, which in turn, affects youth development," Nelson said.

On the economic situation, Nelson said the position of Indian youth in the Government administration was steadily declining.

"This is very alarming as youths are the future leaders of the nation and the Indian community. There has to be some improvement in this respect."

Delegates will also express their views on the proposed amendment to the party constitution to enable the election of future national Youth heads. The amendment will be the highlight of the 55th MIC general assembly next Saturday.

At present, the post of the national Youth and Wanita head is elected by

party president.

Issues concerning race relations are also expected to be touched upon in the light of the recent Taman Medan incident.

"This has made everyone realise that we should not take an important issue like this for granted," said Nelson.

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