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IPF-Samy

SAMY VELLU UNPERTURBED BY IPF'S DECISION NOT TO JOIN MIC

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- The decision by the Indian Progressive Front (IPF), not to take up MIC's offer to join the party, has not come as a surprise to its president, Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

Calling the results of today's referendum as "a drama staged " by IPF president Datuk M.G. Pandithan, Samy Vellu said, "You must remember that a man who slanders his fellow men, unwittingly uncovers the real nature of his inner self."

The MIC president declined to comment further, indicating that he might not touch on the subject of the IPF again.

IPF delegates voted to reject the offers from both the MIC and PPP at their ninth general assembly held at the Putra World Trade Centre earlier today.

Of the total 2,950 delegates, the MIC and PPP received one vote each while there were two spoilt votes.

IPF president Datuk M.G. Pandithan did not vote in the referendum held to decide if delegates should take up the offer by MIC and the PPP or remain with the IPF.

Political observers say, Samy Vellu would have felt vindicated by IPF's decision, now that the IPF can never blame the MIC for blocking its bid to join the BN.

"The MIC can now say that the IPF was given a chance to join the BN through the MIC but they wasted it. There was never an intention to join the MIC or even the PPP," said one observer.

"It is difficult to say now if the IPF will ever be able to join the BN," the observer said, adding that even the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had welcomed the offer made by the MIC to IPF.

However, Pandithan pledged to continue with the party's struggle until the IPF is accepted as a component party of the BN.

"We have been patient and will continue to be patient and will succeed in our struggle," said Pandithan.

Another observer said Pandithan, after realising that the majority of the delegates were not keen on joining the MIC or PPP, decided to openly declare at the general assembly this morning, that the IPF will continue to push the BN leadership to accept the party into the coalition.

"By saying this, he gave the indication to the delegates that they should reject the offers made by the MIC and PPP," said the observer.

-- BERNAMA

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