

MIC rapped for keeping IPF out

KUALA LUMPUR: Indian Progressive Front (IPF) president Datuk M.G. Pandithan yesterday criticised the MIC for being a stumbling block to the former's bid to join the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"What is confusing is that the MIC is ready to accept opposition parties into the BN but not friends of the BN ... this is really not rational," he said in his speech at the 10th IPF annual general assembly attended by some 5,000 delegates.

Pandithan said this in relation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's invitation to all opposition parties in the country to join the BN recently.

The invitation was not opposed by any of the 14 BN component parties. The IPF is a splinter party of MIC formed after a falling-out between MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Pandithan, a former MIC vice-president.

It had on numerous occasions applied to join the BN but was rejected because there was no consensus agreement among the 14 component parties in the coalition.

"We are ready to be patient ... but the MIC uses the consensus system to keep us out; we will wait and with God's will we will join the BN one day and continue its struggle," said Pandithan.

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