

01 DEC 2002  
Samy Vellu-MIC  
MIC MAY ALSO DEFER PARTY POLLS

SEREMBAN, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- The MIC may follow Umno's move to defer party elections scheduled for next year to concentrate on preparations for the next general election.

MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said it was possible for MIC to postpone party elections, but no decision had been made.

"Otherwise, we will continue with the meetings (and elections). We do not know when the general election will be held...but we can consider such a proposal," he told reporters after opening the Tamil Youth Bell Club general assembly here today.

On Friday, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the party's Supreme Council elections scheduled for next year had been postponed to allow the party to focus on the general election.

Samy Vellu said according to the schedule, MIC branch meetings should be held by Feb 28, division meetings by March 31 and state meetings by April 30 next year.

"The MIC general assembly should be held before August. If it is to be held after August, we need approval from the Registrar of Societies," he said.

He said the general assembly had been set for May 17 and 18, and an invitation had been sent to the Prime Minister for him to open the meeting in his capacity as the Barisan Nasional chairman.

Samy Vellu also said he had asked the Tamil Youth Bell Club to play a more effective role in curbing social problems among youths, especially Indians.

"The Tamil Youth Bell Club and its branches throughout the country should hold more frequent meetings with youths to find out their problems and help solve them," he said.

-- BERNAMA  
APG YBY