

27 JUN 2002
Samy-Mahathir
MIC RESPECTS DR MAHATHIR'S DECISION TO RETIRE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 27 (Bernama) -- The MIC Central Working Committee (CWC) said today that it supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's decision to retire in October next year and name Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his successor.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said that until then, the party would continue to give its undivided cooperation and support to Dr Mahathir.

"The CWC expresses appreciation and respect the able leadership of Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad in raising Malaysia to greater heights over the past 21 years," he said at a news conference after chairing the CWC meeting at MIC headquarters here.

Samy Vellu said the CWC also expressed full confidence in Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's leadership and give its strong support for the smooth transition of power.

The meeting also discussed the development of Tamil schools in the country.

On this, he said the party's action committee would hold a series of meetings with headmasters of Tamil schools in each state to find ways to improve the condition of the schools.

The first meeting would be held in Perak on July 21.

Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister, said the MIC would present a proposal to the Education Minister to improve the poor condition of some 130 Tamil schools.

"I believe the Education Minister would take action to rebuild some of these schools under its school building programme in 2003," he said.

-- BERNAMA
PA AHH ABG