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Samy-Election

NO DECISION ON MIC CANDIDATES FOR NEXT ELECTION, SAYS SAMY VELLU

SUNGAI SIPUT, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today he has not decided whether to retain or replace the party's present members of parliament and state assemblymen for the coming general election.

He, however, said the party had ample aspiring candidates, including professionals like doctors and lawyers, but unfortunately not many seats were allocated to MIC.

"We have a lot of candidates but we have not decided whom to choose," he told reporters here after launching a campaign to raise Jalur Gemilang.

MIC has seven parliament and 14 state seats.

On whether MIC would request for additional seats following the creation of 25 parliamentary and 59 state seats under the redelineation of electoral boundaries, Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister, said he would discuss with Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the appropriate time.

While the five-year mandate of the current parliament term would only lapse at the end of 2004, Samy Vellu said MIC had already activated its election machinery at all levels to prepare for the polls.

Samy Vellu said he had ordered the party's MPs and assemblymen to send reports to him on how to attract voters and what was lacking in their constituencies.

"Our machinery will start from the headquarters level to the branch. The elected representatives must start their preparations by setting up a committee at every polling district," he said.

At the same time, the representatives have been told to concentrate on villages and new villages as they would play a crucial role in the general election, he said.

Samy Vellu said MIC had started preparations to wrest the Lunas state seat in Kedah which it lost to Parti Keadilan Nasional in a by-election two years ago.

"I will visit Lunas every two weeks and will meet Umno, MCA, MIC and Gerakan members in all branches from time to time. We will identify the problems there and try to solve them immediately," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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