

Samy: Stop overseas trips

STAR

1 FEB 2003

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KUALA LUMPUR: Leaders who organise overseas trips, especially to Thailand, to induce the delegates to vote for them in the party elections will face expulsion, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said.

"This practice should stop. There were two such cases reported in the last party elections in 2000," he said.

There had been one such case involving a division leader, Samy Vellu told reporters after chairing the monthly central working committee meeting yesterday.

"We have issued a warning to that leader and have decided that leaders should not take

teams of people for trips," he said, without identifying the leader.

He said the elections for the deputy president, three vice presidents and 20 CWC seats would be held at the 57th annual general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre on May 10.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has consented to open the assembly. This will be the last time he opens an MIC assembly," he said.

Samy Vellu said leaders were advised to give priority to maintaining discipline during the run-up to the elections between February and May.

"We don't want them to make a mockery of the party

constitution. If I see anybody creating a fracas or fight, strict disciplinary action will be taken," he said, adding that leaders should serve the community to get their support and not through other means.

He said the MIC Youth and Wanita chiefs would be elected at their respective assemblies.

This is the first election following amendments to the party constitution.

Samy Vellu said about 1,400 delegates and 2,000 observers would attend the assembly at the PWTC. About 5,000 MIC members also are expected to wait outside to see Dr Mahathir who has brought great progress and development to the country.