

Subra: Kayveas' statement an insult

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KUALA LUMPUR: MIC deputy president Datuk S. Subramaniam said PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas' "mischievous" statement that Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu was the only leader capable of leading the Indian community at present is an insult to the MIC.

He said the MIC was set up in 1946 and its 600,000 members are experienced and mature to elect their leaders to provide leadership of the party.

"On this basis, Samy was elected president and I was elected deputy president. I would welcome it if Kayveas heaps praises on Samy as he deserved it because he has provided the party good leadership.

"But Kayveas should be careful in trying to be judgmental about others. It does

not take too much to be judgmental about him or his leadership.

"I will want to refrain from saying further in the spirit of Barisan Nasional," he said at his office in the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry.

He was referring to a statement by Kayveas made at the closing of PPP's 50th general assembly on Sunday.

Subramaniam, who is also the deputy minister, had actually called for a press conference to explain his "silence" which was reported to have caused widespread speculation in MIC.

The silence was over a remark made by IPF president Datuk M.G. Pandithan on Friday urging Samy Vellu to step down from the presidential post and make way for young leaders as advised by the prime minister.

Pandithan said IPF would be able to join BN if Subramaniam was at the helm

of MIC as the main stumbling block to his party gaining admission was Samy Vellu.

Subramaniam said he had remained mum as he has "nothing to say" and Samy Vellu himself also did not comment on Pandithan's statement.

"That is his (Pandithan) view ... What is important and relevant is the advice of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (to make way to younger leaders).

"His advice was meant for party veterans. It has nothing to do with me. I have nothing to respond to," he added.

He advised party members and leaders at all level to refrain from making wild speculations but to focus on the preparations for the next general election.

He also said the transition period in the national leadership is very important and historic and it is crucial for party members to show full support to the next prime minister.