

# DAP joins the fray between MIC and IPF

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The DAP has joined in the fray between the MIC and the Indian Progressive Front (IPF) with its national deputy chairman Karpal Singh urging Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail to take a personal interest in the dispute.

This follows police reports by IPF president Datuk M.G. Pandithan against Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu that the MIC president had contravened the Official Secrets Act.

The issue is over a letter recommending a datukship for *Malaysia Nanban* editorial advisor Athi Kumanan which Pan-

dithan had purportedly sent to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Karpal Singh said Samy Vellu has a lot of explaining to do as to how he came by the information. He added that Samy Vellu had disclosed the information to the public who, he said, are not authorised persons "to whom such information can be disclosed".

On Friday, Samy Vellu stated that Pandithan could lodge a police report against him and he would leave it to the police.

"As such, I'm leaving the matter to the police. If the

police investigate me, they also have to investigate the person who lied," he told reporters, commenting on Pandithan's earlier statement that he would lodge a report against Samy Vellu for revealing the contents of his private letter to Dr Mahathir.

In another development, Selangor MIC Youth leader P. Subramaniam lodged a report against Pandithan alleging that the IPF president had provided false information to the Registrar of Societies pertaining to its membership status.

In the report lodged at the

Shah Alam district police station yesterday, Subramaniam said Pandithan had stated on March 30, 2001 that IPF had 380,000 members.

However, said Subramaniam, its statement of accounts for the same year showed the IPF's total membership fees, plus contributions, amounted to only RM261,000.

The Youth leader, who was accompanied by 20 supporters from the Selangor MIC Youth wing, said the amount collected from membership fees did not tally with the number of members that IPF claimed it had.