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MIC-Seats

MIC TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO BN FOR MORE SEATS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 25 (Bernama) -- The MIC will submit a proposal to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi asking for more parliamentary and state seats to contest in the general election.

Party president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today the proposal, in the form of a report, would be submitted to the top two leaders, who are also Barisan Nasional (BN) head and deputy head respectively, in "the very near future."

"We don't want to make it public how many seats we want. It will be contained in the proposal the MIC will send but whatever they decide to give, we will accept in the spirit of the BN," he said after chairing the party's central working committee meeting at the MIC headquarters, here.

The party now has seven parliamentary and 13 state seats. The Dewan Rakyat recently passed a motion to create 25 parliamentary and 63 state seats. The Federal Constitution will be amended at its June sitting to allow the proposed seats to be gazetted.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said the MIC, being the third largest party in the BN, was looking at more seats, especially in parliament, in proportion to the number of Indians in the country.

He said the party had identified the seats it wanted and these seats had a higher concentration of Malaysian Indians, although the community was not the majority in these constituencies.

The three-hour meeting also decided that 16 resolutions would be tabled at the party's general assembly on May 10 and 11, which would be attended by Dr Mahathir and Abdullah.

Samy Vellu said the resolutions would touch on various matters, including parliamentary and state seat allocation, support for Dr Mahathir and Abdullah, the proposed National Service scheme and the Malaysian Indian equity ownership.

"We will also table a resolution on the reconstruction of Iraq, the disbursement of loans to small- and medium-scale traders and social policies implemented by the government," he added.

Other resolutions include the request to declare Thaipusam a national holiday and thanking the government for settling the fixed wage issue for plantation workers in the country.

A total 5,000 party members are expected to attend the assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre and of this, 1,497 would be delegates.

-- BERNAMA

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