

09/05/2003

A faster process at MIC election with electronic voting

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The electronic voting system to be used during the MIC election on Saturday will enable results to be known in less than 30 minutes compared to almost six hours taken in the past.

Party president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today this was the first time that such a system was being used by any political party in the country.

The system is produced by Bharat Electronics Limited, a company based in Bangalore, India.

"We believe that this system is an effective measure as not only will the results be compiled in a short period but also it will ensure there is no rigging or any dissatisfaction.

"Previously the voting process and counting of votes will take almost the whole day and thus we cannot concentrate on other proceedings. However, this will not be the case now," said Samy Vellu after being briefed on the usage of the system today.

Samy Vellu, who is the Works Minister, said 33 candidates would contest the 23 seats in the party's central working committee.

Four others who had filed their nominations on May 1 had since withdrawn.

There is no contest for the deputy president post held by Datuk S. Subaramaniam and three vice-presidents posts, occupied by Datuk S. Veerasingam, Datuk G. Palanivel and Tan Sri K.S. Nijhar.

Samy Vellu also said that for the first time, the opening of the two-day general assembly by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would be aired "live" over TV1 from the Putra World Trade Centre, There would also be hourly coverage in the news segment over TV3.

"We are thankful to the electronic media for airing our assembly as this would give a chance to other party members who are not attending the event to follow the proceedings."

Meanwhile, Bharat Electronics's manager for product design, A. Rudhramoorthy, said that the system had been used in the general election for State assembly and Parliament in India from the year 1998.

"The question of efficiency and effectiveness of this system does not arise as it has been proven in elections in India."

Rudhramoorthy said for the MIC election, there would be eight sets provided enabling eight delegates to vote at the same time. The machine would display the candidate's number, name and picture.