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Changes to candidate list likely

reports on "MIC Youth & Wanita Annual General Assemblies 2003" by MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today changes are likely to be made to the party's list of candidates for the next general election.

But he said the list would not be finalised until he had met Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the MIC would ask Dr Mahathir, who is the Prime Minister, for more parliamentary and State seats following the re-delineation exercise by the Election Commission.

"We will probably field new faces if we are given these additional seats," he said after opening the party's Youth and Wanita annual general assemblies at the Putra World Trade Centre.

On the party's preparations to face the general election, Samy Vellu said the party machinery was ready and would immediately swing into action the minute the dissolution of Parliament was announced.

"The next general election will be the first in this century and the MIC is determined to make this century the BN century and show the Opposition what the BN is made of," he said.

Earlier in his speech, the MIC president said there were about 56,420 single Indian mothers in the country, of whom 58 per cent were aged between 30 and 40.

"This shows that a large majority of single mothers are still young and the Wanita movement must work harder to reach out to these women and help them become more independent," he said.

He said the Wanita movement had successfully organised programmes and activities to create greater social and economic awareness among Indian women.

Samy Vellu said he had also received a request from the Wanita movement to increase the number of Indian women representatives in the various local councils.

"This is a fair request. However, we also received a similar request from the Youth and will look for the best way to divide the representation between the two movements."

He also congratulated the Youth movement for successfully launching the recent Briged Pemuda MIC.