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I will lead MIC as long as I am needed, says Samy Vellu

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today he will continue to lead the MIC as long as the members need his services.

He said he won uncontested during the party polls in March and would continue to lead the MIC as long as he was needed.

"As long as I am relevant to the party and the party feels that I am still relevant, I will continue to be president," said Samy Vellu, who is also the Works Minister.

He said the MIC was grooming new leaders to take over when the time was right.

On his ministerial position, he said it was the sole discretion of the Prime Minister and he would abide by whatever decision taken.

Samy Vellu, who has been MIC president for 22 years, was responding to remarks Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made in an interview with Bernama on Tuesday that veteran Barisan Nasional politicians who had been around for a long time should make way for new faces.

Meanwhile, Gerakan Youth chief Mah Siew Keong said today certain BN leaders, despite being veterans, should not step down as the coalition needed a combination of experienced and new elected representatives to achieve victory in the next general election.

"We are of the opinion that the Prime Minister's intention is not to say that all veteran leaders must retire immediately but more of an advice not to overstay," he said in a statement today.

While the movement appreciates Dr Mahathir's call for veteran politicians to make way for new leaders, Mah said, it also shared Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik's opinion that a leader should leave once his services were no longer needed by the members or when he has lost his usefulness.

"As far as Gerakan is concerned, the party requires a blend of experienced and young leaders, especially when the party is in the process of reinventing and rejuvenating itself."