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`No need for leadership change in MIC'

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today there was no need for the party to undergo a leadership change just because some of the other component parties of the Barisan Nasional has done so.

Samy Vellu said the change of guard in each party was an internal matter and it is up to the respective party members to decide whether they wanted a new leadership.

"Just because some BN parties have new presidents does not mean that we in MIC must also follow suit and change our leadership immediately. The change will come at the right time.

"If MIC leaders and members want a change then we will do so. They are mature enough and it is up to them to decide. A leader can only hold on to his post if he is wanted by his members," said Samy Vellu after chairing the party central working committee meeting at the MIC headquarters today.

Samy Vellu, also the Works Minister, said this when asked to comment on the resignation of some key leaders in the BN component parties.

Samy Vellu became acting MIC president in 1979 following the death of Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam and was elected as the party president in May 1981.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Liong Sik and his deputy Datuk Seri Lim Ah Lek resigned from their posts on May 23 and were subsequently succeeded by vice-presidents Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and Datuk Chan Kong Choy respectively.

On Wednesday, Parti Bangsa Dayak Sarawak president Datuk Amar Leo Moggie announced his resignation and he has been replaced by his deputy Datuk Seri Daniel Tajem.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to step down in October and he will be succeeded by his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.