

06/05/2003

MIC elections: Four withdraw

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Four of 37 delegates contesting the 23 MIC central working committee (CWC) posts have withdrawn since nominations closed on May 1.

MIC secretary-general S. Sothinathan said they were Datuk S. Parasuraman (Kedah), A. Arumugam (Kedah), S. Sellakrishnan (Negri Sembilan) and S. Ganeson (Pahang).

He said the party's annual general assembly this Saturday would be "extra special" as both Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would be present.

"It will also be very memorable considering Dr Mahathir is going to retire in October," he said when contacted.

A total 1,457 delegates and about 1,000 observers from the Youth and Wanita wings will attend the two-day assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

The MIC will be the first party in the country to introduce electronic voting which will make the polling process much speedier and easier.

"The voting process is expected to take about six hours, while we only need about two minutes to tally the votes," said Sothinathan.

IT experts from India were commissioned to run the system and voting would be done through a "touch screen".

"All the delegates need to do is touch the picture or name of the candidates and when they are satisfied submit their choices," he said.

He added that a trial run had been conducted and the leadership was satisfied.

A total of 16 resolutions will be tabled at the assembly.