

29/03/2003

Puteri MIC to get new co-ordinator

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today announced the restructuring of Puteri MIC in which a new national coordinator will be elected from among 14 State co-ordinators who will be appointed by the party's central working committee.

Following the announcement, Datuk Anusha Santhirasthipam, 42, who was appointed the national co-ordinator when the movement was set up in July last year, has been dropped.

"We will soon announce the appointments of the 14 State co-ordinators who must all be aged between 18 and 35," he said after chairing the party's CWC meeting.

Anusha confirmed that she had been notified yesterday.

"Since Puteri MIC was set up, I have managed to recruit about 3,500 new members and I believe Samy Vellu now feels it is time a leader be elected from among them.

"After all, I am above the age limit," she said.

Anusha said all existing programmes under the movement would continue and be co-ordinated with the help of the respective State party chairmen and secretary-general.

Samy Vellu said the MIC would be meeting representatives of all Tamil school Parent-Teacher Associations nationwide to discuss the best methods to help students achieve good results in the Ujian Penilaian Sekolah Rendah examination.

"Last year, we had more than 200 top achievers from Tamil schools and we are looking to do better this year."

Among the methods to achieve this, he said, would be to have tuition classes in all States according to four different zones.

Malacca, Negri Sembilan and Johor will make up zone one; Selangor, Federal Territory and Pahang (zone two); Perak (zone three); and Perlis, Kedah, Penang and Kelantan (zone four).

On the on-going divisional elections, Samy Vellu said he had received some complaints, but overall the elections had progressed smoothly.

"All divisions will conclude their meetings by the end of this month, while the States will hold their meetings next month," he said, adding that the party's annual general assembly will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre on May 10.

It will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will also be present.

On the party's preparations for the next general election, he said he would be launching the Briged Pemuda MIC on Sunday consisting of about 5,000 youths who will act as the eyes and ears of the party in reaching out to the community.

"These youths will be trained in assisting the people in various socio-economic activities."

Samy Vellu also said the MIC would donate RM100,000 to the Iraqi People's Humanitarian Fund which was announced by Abdullah on Wednesday.