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### Subramaniam drawn into dispute

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MIC DEPUTY chief Datuk S. Subramaniam seems to have unwittingly been drawn into the Samy Vellu-Pandithan controversy by both Tamil Nesan and Malaysia Nanban.

Yesterday's edition of both newspapers focused on the Deputy Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister for totally different reasons, yet giving the impression that he was a player in the dispute.

Tamil Nesan ran a letter from a reader on Page 19, which questioned Subramaniam's reticence on the issue of whether Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu should emulate former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in retiring.

Vijayamala Loganathan of Batu Caves asked why Subramaniam had issued a statement late in the day advising Samy Vellu and Datuk M.G. Pandithan to end their dispute when he should have told the Indian Progressive Front president to stay out of MIC matters at the outset.

The letter's publication is note-worthy because Tamil Nesan is run by Datin Indrani Samy Vellu and its contents are almost a barometer of the state of affairs in the party.

Tamil Nesan also carried an excerpt of Subramaniam's earlier comment urging Samy Vellu and Pandithan to tone down their feud.

Malaysia Nanban, meanwhile, highlighted the deputy minister in its page one lead story yesterday, in which he warned foreigners of stern action if they tried to defraud Malaysians by promising large monetary payments in letters to them.

While the issue was important, what was more interesting was Subramaniam being highlighted despite the fact that Malaysia Nanban editorial consultant Athi Kumanan is a leading figure in the Samy Vellu-Pandithan dispute.

In fact, the newspaper has been giving the MIC deputy chief sub-stantial publicity for some time now, with the degree of coverage some-what greater in recent days.