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MIC AGM hogs the headlines

Balan Moses; Ramlan Said; Lim Chee Wei

THE MIC's 57th annual general meeting today assumes special significance as it will be the last time that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who retires in October, will declare it open as he has been doing for the past 21 years.

Tamil Nesan said the meeting would be a historic one as Dr Mahathir's chosen successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, would also be present.

K. Manogaran, in his commentary, said the meeting would also see the use of an electronic voting machine for the first time ever by any Barisan Nasional component party.

The analysis of the general state of affairs in the MIC also dwelt on the highlight of the meeting - voting for the 23 successful candidates from among the 33 aspirants.

According to the newspaper, 20 of 23 names on the "official list" are incumbents with a strong chance of victory. Two of the 10 standing on individual tickets stand an outside chance.

RTM 1 will provide live coverage of Dr Mahathir's opening speech and the preceding speech by MIC chief Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

The newspaper on Thursday also carried a Bernama story saying Samy Vellu had fortified his position with the problem-free election of the deputy president and three vice-presidents.

On another front, the Selangor State Executive Council has decided to name a new road in Shah Alam after the late John Thivy, MIC founding member.

State Executive Councillor Datuk K. Sivalingam was quoted by Tamil Nesan yesterday as saying the council approved the motion which he tabled on Wednesday to remember Thivy's contributions to the Indian community.

Malaysia Nanban said the Malaysian Silambam Association was disappointed at the decision not to include the Indian art of self-defence in this year's Sukma.

It said Silambam had not been chosen as it allegedly failed to meet conditions set for inclusion of new games into the schedule.