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TV1 to carry live speeches by Abdullah, Samy Vellu on Sunday

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's address to MIC leaders and members nationwide at the party's Election Machinery Convention on Sunday will be aired live over TV1.

The television station will air live the Prime Minister's and MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's opening speeches from the Selangor Youth and Cultural Complex in Shah Alam.

With more than 10,000 members, including 4,300 branch chairmen expected to attend, the MIC convention will be the biggest gathering of party leaders and members to give Samy Vellu the mandate to continue leading the largest Indian-based party in the country.

"The convention will pass three resolutions, including one calling for the continued leadership of the party president.

"The two other resolutions will be to thank former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and to extend the party's fullest co-operation and support to Abdullah," said a party member.

The aim of the convention is to mobilise the MIC's strength to face the next general election and to discuss its plans and strategies.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Khir Toyo are expected to present working papers at the one-day convention.

According to the party member, the resolution calling for Samy Vellu's continued leadership was a way to once and for all silence "outsiders" from calling for the resignation of the party president.