

**I'm stepping down in January next year, says Samy Vellu**  
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KUALA LUMPUR - MIC president S. Samy Vellu, one of the longest serving and colourful party leaders in the country, announced Thursday that he will step down as party president in January next year.

The 74-year-old Kluang-born Samy Vellu said his deputy and former press secretary Senator G. Palanivel will succeed him.

Samy Vellu, who took over the helm of the party as acting president on 13 Sept ,1979, following the death of Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam, said he has informed the Central Working Committee (CWC) of his decision.

"I will announce the specific date later," he told a press conference after chairing a CWC meeting.

According to him, the resignation could take place before or after he attended the ninth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi where he would be discussing opportunities for Malaysian contractors to be involved in the building of infrastructure in India. - Bernama

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