

Samy Vellu stepping down end of November
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KUALA LUMPUR - The longest-serving MIC president Samy Vellu, 74, will be quitting the top post end of November, couple of months earlier than expected.

According to party sources, the veteran leader told those who are close to him that he will vacate the position end of November so that he could take up the ambassador-at-large position offered by the government, FMT reported Wednesday.

Samy Vellu is expected make the early departure announcement on Thursday during the party's central working committee meeting at the party headquarters.

A source was quoted to say that the MIC leader has received his letter of appointment into which the new appointment will take effect from Dec 1.

"He has also chosen his staff for his new position, which will be with ministerial status. He will be active in lobbying for infrastructure projects in the Asia, especially India and China.

"The government is making full use of his long experience in obtaining these sorts of projects," FMT quoted the source as saying.

On Sept 30, Samy Vellu announced that he will step down as party president in January next year and said his deputy and former press secretary Senator G. Palanivel will succeed him.

Samy Vellu has served as MIC's longest-serving president which saw him holding the post for 11 consecutive terms.

He took over the helm of the party as acting president on 13 Sept ,1979, following the death of Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam.

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