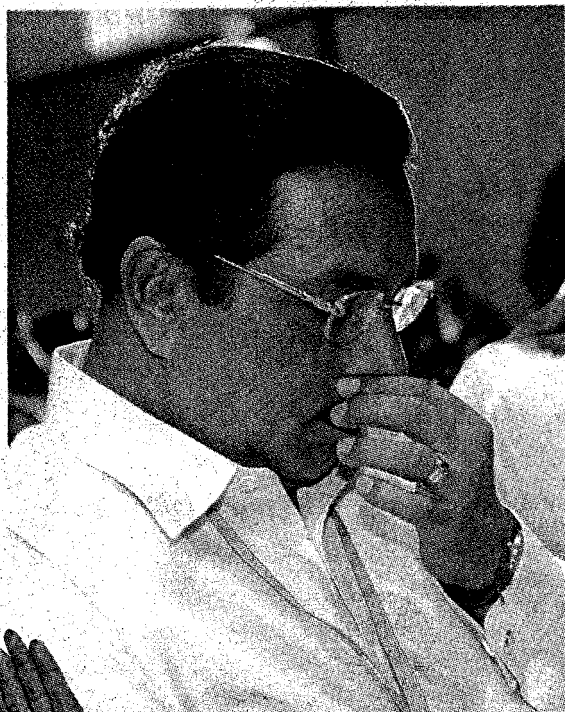


The end for Subra

Palanivel takes over as deputy MIC president with thumping victory



"I am slightly sad as I had expected to win"

- Datuk S. Subramaniam

KUALA LUMPUR: After 25 years as the MIC deputy president, Datuk S. Subramaniam was dislodged by challenger Datuk G. Palanivel, who rode home with a thumping victory at the party elections yesterday.

This is the first time Subramaniam is left without a national post since his appointment as the party's secretary in 1973.

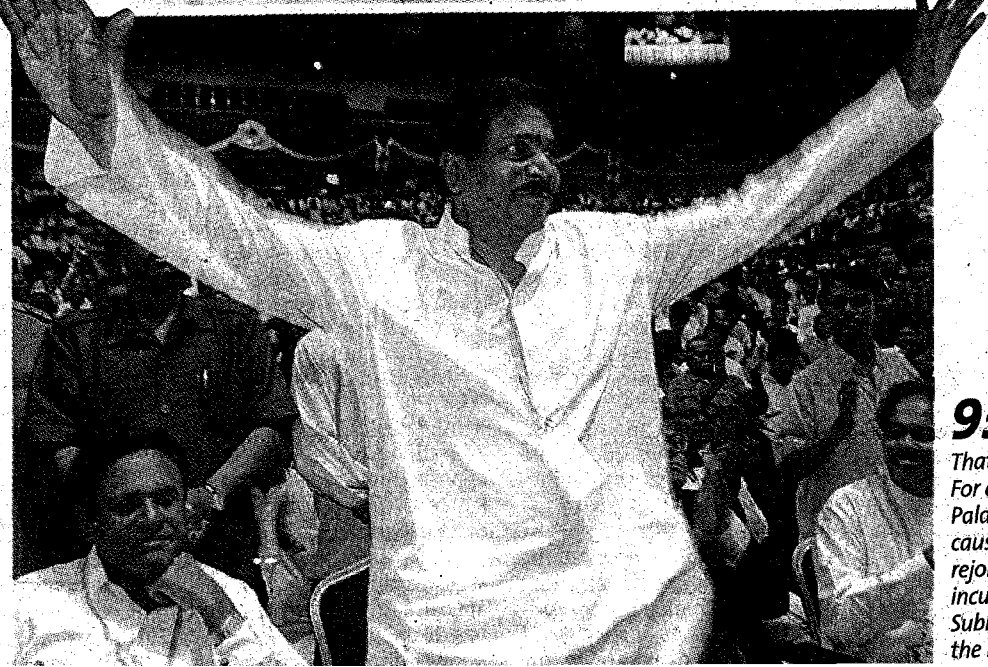
He has been reduced to just being the Seputih MIC division chief.

Delegates at the MIC assembly gave Palanivel, the Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister and a former journalist, 933 votes.

Subramaniam obtained 495 votes, slightly over half of the votes secured by Palanivel, who was handpicked by party president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu to challenge the incumbent.

While there had been talk hours earlier that Palanivel had won the race, it was only at about 7.30pm that the

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933-495

That's the final result. For challenger Palanivel, it was a cause of great rejoicing but for incumbent Subramaniam, the look of

Samy's preferred candidates sail through

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official results confirmed his victory.

Subramaniam appeared unfazed by the verdict and gave polite applause for the victor.

"I respect and accept the decision that the delegates had made," he told journalists at the Putra World Trade Centre where the MIC held its 60th general assembly.

Later, when interviewed at his home in Section 16, Petaling Jaya, he said he would take a few days to sort out some "personal stuff" before deciding on his political career.

An elated Palanivel said the delegates had given him a big responsibility to shoulder and he would not disappoint them. "I will carry out my responsibility effectively with guidance from Samy Vellu," he said.

It was a day for the president as his preferred candidates for the three vice-presidents' posts as well as 21 of his chosen people for the 23-seat central working committee sailed through.

Palanivel, 57, a four-term MP, had been a vice-president since 1994 and was picked by Samy Vellu as his anointed successor last August.

Subramaniam had made it known a year ago that he would defend his post.

An early indication that the president's endorsed team had made a near-complete sweep came at about 4.45pm, when a candidate came out of the PWTC's Dewan Merdeka to say that Samy Vellu's men had won.

By 5.15pm the delegates had learned that there were just two casualties from the official team - Perak state treasurer Datuk K. Munisamy and Federal Territory MIC deputy chairman Datuk Chandrasekhar Suppiah.

The party president came into the hall at around 5.30pm and was mobbed by his supporters.

They cheered and gathered around Palanivel when he walked in 15 minutes later.

Subramaniam came in at 6pm and took a seat, a distance away from the new MIC national leaders.

The delegates gave secretary-general Datuk S. Sothinathan a deluge of votes to replace Palanivel as one of the three vice-presidents and also returned incumbents Datuk S. Veerasingam and Tan Sri K.S. Nijhar.

The vice-presidential contenders who lost were national information chief Datuk V.K.K. Teagarajan, former vice-president Datuk K. Muthupalaniappan, Klang-based businessman Alex Thiagarasan @P. Thiagarasan and former Si Rusa state assemblyman E. Yohevel.

MIC ELECTION RESULTS



PRESIDENT

Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Datuk C. Palanivel **933 votes**

Datuk S. Subramaniam 495 votes

VICE-PRESIDENT (3 Positions)

Datuk S. Sothinathan **1,153 votes**

Datuk S. Veerasingam **1,141 votes**

Tan Sri Dr K. S. Nijhar **939 votes**

Datuk V. K. K. Teagarajan 40 votes

Datuk M. Muthupalaniappan

244 votes

Alex Thiagarasan 220 votes

E. Yohevel 111 votes

Central Working Committee

1. Datuk G. Rajoo 1,176 votes

2. Datuk V. Saravanan 1,116

3. Dr S. Subramaniam 1,115

4. Datuk M. Davendran 1,048

5. Datuk K.S. Balakrishnan 1,045

6. Datuk R. Caneson 1,025

7. Kamala Canapathy 1,012

8. Datuk R. Raghavan 987

9. Datuk T. Rajagopal 983

10. P. K. Subbalyah 968

11. Datuk S. Balakrishnan 968

12. R. Ragumoorthy 948*

13. S. S. Rajagopal 935

14. Datuk V. Thiagarajan 924

15. S. Canesan 919

16. Datuk Dr K. Rajapathy 916

17. Datuk S. Krishnasamy 911

18. Datuk Dr L. Krishnan 831

19. Prof Datuk T. Marimuthu 828

20. Datuk K. Sivalingam 805

21. Vimalah Nair 802

22. Senator M. Saravanan 776

23. P. Logeswary @ Kajang Rhane

* denotes newcomers