

MIC reveals four-point plan

Bid to strengthen position as the main Indian party

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KUALA LUMPUR: The MIC has formulated four activities to strengthen its political position as the sole representative of the Indian community in the country.

Its president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the activities included a major exercise to register every eligible Indian as a voter.

Divisions must organise voter registration campaigns and also make house-to-house visits, he said in his closing address at the MIC general assembly here yesterday.

Samy Vellu said that a bureau, to be headed by a Central Working Committee member, would undertake the campaign as well as make the necessary preparations for the forthcoming general election.

Elected representatives at Parliament and state assemblies must also ensure that they resolved problems of all communities in their constituencies and submit a report to him.

Samy Vellu said that a series of 17 seminars had been planned to chart the work and responsibilities of over 4,300 party branch leaders.

On the economic front, he said the party would follow up with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad

Badawi on the establishment of a dedicated delivery mechanism to ensure effective delivery of the Ninth Malaysia Plan for the Indian community.

"Our economic bureau will also identify 5,000 micro Indian entrepreneurs by 2010, provide them basic training and enable them to have access to microbusiness loans," he said.

On education, he said there would be a review of the performance of Indian students in the SPM and STPM before strategies and remedies to improve their overall performance are developed.

"We will also identify Indian youths with intelligence and academic excellence and help them to access world-class higher educational institutions," he said.

Samy Vellu said the party would identify 5,000 under-achieving youths at the SPM level and channel them into skills and industrial training institutions yearly.

"We also review the remove class system where there are currently 6,000 Indian students, the status of teachers in Tamil schools, and Indians employed as teachers, headmasters, lecturers and in other positions in the Education Ministry," he said.

He said a paper would be submit-

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Role models

Puteri MIC members B. Suria (right) and S. Pamela distributing roses to mothers at the MIC general assembly in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. In conjunction with Mother's Day, party president Datuk S. Samy Vellu's daughter-in-law, Shaila Nair, sang a Tamil song in praise of mothers. Delegates also paid tribute to 15 mothers including Datin Seri Indrani Samy Vellu. All 15 received sarees, shawls and garlands.

ted to the Chief Secretary to the Government, on the appeals from excellent students who failed to obtain scholarships to pursue their studies overseas.

Samy Vellu said the party would identify the poor families, especially

single mothers and the elderly, and ensure they received help through the welfare department.

Earlier, the MIC unanimously passed an amendment to the party constitution to allow the creation of Putra MIC at state and division levels

for those aged between 18 and 30.

The party's constitution amendment committee chairman, Tan Sri M. Mahalingam, said that the wing's division level leaders would be elected while the state leaders would be appointed.