

Former MIC veep Muthu joins PKR
TheStarOnline
April 30, 2012

KUALA LUMPUR: Former MIC vice-president Datuk M. Muthupalaniappan has joined the opposition PKR in anticipation of being named the Teluk Kemang parliamentary seat candidate.

The 70-year-old politician, who was a two-term state executive councillor, tendered his resignation as a member of Seremban MIC branch on Friday.

He joined MIC in 1968 and had served in various capacities including national youth leader, Negri Sembilan MIC state chairman, MIC vice-president and a Senator. In 2009, he failed in his attempt to contest against Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu for the MIC presidency as his nomination papers were rejected.

Muthupalaniappan said he was disillusioned with the party leadership, which had failed to tap his experience to serve the party and the Indian community.

"I have expressed my disappointment to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in a letter as well as to MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel. I was driven out of MIC," he said yesterday.

Muthupalaniappan said the PKR had been wooing him and he had had a discussion with Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim recently.

"I am confident that they will give me the Teluk Kemang seat," he said.

MIC disciplinary committee chairman Tan Sri K.S. Nijhar said they had not received Muthupalaniappan's letter, adding that the membership of any member who joined the Opposition automatically ceased.

"There have been several reports about Muthupalaniappan wanting to join PKR and since he has not denied it, his name has been struck off from the MIC effective April 30."

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