

## **Now Palanivel says he may stay on beyond 2016**

**Malaysian Insider**

**Sept 1 , 2013**

**BY YISWAREE PALANSAMY**

Newly elected MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel now says that he may continue leading the party even after his current term ends in three years.

Citing the "overwhelming support" in nominations for the top post today, Palanivel said the 617 he received represented support from about 95% of branch chairmen.

"It is a good sign and a good beginning for me," he said.

Shortly after the result was known at the party's headquarters, Palanivel told reporters that he did not feel like retiring as he was being "forced" by branch chairmen to soldier on.

"More than 3,000 branch chairmen want me to continue being the president. I will make a decision in 2016."

Palanivel said he will focus on strengthening the party financially and building up its membership over the next three years.

The former journalist became acting president when he took over from Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu who stepped down in 2010 after holding the post for 31 years.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had advised Palanivel and his deputy Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam to avoid a contest, so as to strengthen the party which did not perform well in the last general election.

Palanivel had also pledged to step down in 2016 to make way for Dr Subramaniam.

Well before Najib's advice was given, Palanivel said in June this year that this would be his last term as he was already aged 64. – September 1, 2013.

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