

Subra to take over from Palanivel as MIC chief in 2016 under "no contest" deal
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To avoid a contest for the top post in the upcoming MIC elections, its president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel (pic) will serve as chief until the first quarter of 2016 before stepping down in favour of his deputy Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam.

Palanivel, who is also the Natural Resources and Environment Minister, said the compromise was reached after a discussion with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on Sunday.

Palanivel, who took the leadership baton from the party's previous supremo Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, the longest serving MIC president, said Najib had advised him and Dr Subramaniam, who is also the health minister, to avoid having a head-on contest and the duo decided to pay heed.

"I believe that there are no strong challengers for the president and deputy president posts," the Star online reported today.

Palanivel today briefed party officials on the deal at the MIC headquarters.

Also present at the event were Samy Vellu, Dr. Subramaniam as well as other top MIC leaders, including vice-presidents Datuk M. Saravanan and Datuk S.K. Devamany, secretary-general A. Sakthivel, treasurer-general Datuk Jaspal Singh, information chief Datuk V.S. Mogan, Women's Wing chief Datin Paduka Komala Krishnamoorthy and Youth chief T. Mohan.

Nominations for the party's presidential election is scheduled for September 1, with polling on September 22, should there be a contest.

The elections for other national posts — deputy president, three vice-presidents and 23 central working committee members - would be held in November with leaders for these positions being picked by 1,500 divisional delegates, while the MIC president is picked by the party's 4,000-odd branch chairmen.- August 22 2013

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