

## **'MIED belongs to MIC'**

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**Oleh Nantha Kumar**

PETALING JAYA: A MIC leader has claimed that 'several quarters' were attempting to separate the party's cash rich education arm, the Maju Institute of Educational Development (MIED), from the party.

Speaking at a press conference late yesterday, MIC information chief L Sivasubramaniam said MIED's board of directors should come clean on the matter to allay concerns that the MIED was "hijacked" by several quarters.

"We also came to know that although MIED is being administered by a group of MIC veterans, the MIC leadership has no power over its management," he said.

MIED is the party's education arm established by former party president S Samy Vellu, aimed to provide necessary means for deserving Indian students to get higher education.

Among its subsidiaries are its flagship AIMST University, Tafe College, MIED Capital, MIED property management and MIED Training. MIED is valued at nearly RM600 million.

Currently, MIC's deputy president Dr S Subramaniam, vice president M Saravanan, former secretary-general G Vadiveloo, former vice president S Veerasingam, former Johor chief KS Balakrishnan and former education bureau chief T Marimuthu sit on MIED's board. Samy Vellu is the chairman of the MIED board of directors.

In his view, Sivasubramaniam said MIED must belong to MIC as the federal government had allocated millions in taxpayers money to set up AIMST and Tafe, as the institutes were the brainchild of the political party.

"Thus, MIC has all the rights to question the institute," he said.

On a related matter, a party insider revealed that MIC members, led by a senior party leader, are running a signature campaign to replace the MIED board members.

The campaign, the party source added, would empower MIC's central working committee to decide on the appointment of the MIED board members.

"The CWC member had already discussed with his colleagues on the matter and they agreed to support the resolution," said the source.

The next CWC meeting is scheduled this Friday.

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