

Palanivel takes it in his stride

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KUALA LUMPUR: From press secretary to Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu to becoming the deputy and anointed successor of the MIC president.

Datuk G. Palanivel has done it in 16 years but he is taking it all in his stride.

On Saturday, he dislodged Datuk S. Subramaniam, who had been the party's deputy president for 25 years.

"I am not overjoyed with the victory. It is a greater burden with more responsibilities and more problems to face," he said at his maiden press conference as the MIC deputy president.

Palanivel, who had been backed all the way by Samy Vellu, defeated Subramaniam with 933 votes.

The incumbent, who obtained 495 votes, had been reduced to just being the Seputih MIC division head. It is the first time since he became the party's executive secretary in 1973 that Subramaniam is left without a national post.

Palanivel said that even if he had lost he would still turn up at the assembly, an obvious reference to Subrama-

niam's absence yesterday.

"We must be able to take all this. In politics, you do your best.

"If there are people rejecting you, you must still come back as you still have your supporters here," he said.

Palanivel, 57, added: "There are times when you climb up and times when you climb down. You must be able to receive something and give back something in return."

The new deputy president said he would try to shoulder the responsibility to the best of his ability, adding that he would try to carry out projects that he had promised to the Indian community, with the help of the Government.

"In politics, you have to be a team player and add value to the team. I will try to add as much value as I can."

He also said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi called to offer his congratulations on the victory, adding that the Prime Minister advised him to work hard and co-operate with Samy Vellu.



NUMBER ONE AND TWO: Samy Vellu and Palanivel at the assembly yesterday.