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Pandithan: Abolish consensus system within coalition

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Indian Progressive Front president Senator M.G.Pandithan today appealed to Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to do away with the consensus system within the coalition.

He said such an arrangement, where an existing component party could veto the entry of another party into the coalition, was obsolete and outdated.

Pandithan said this was important as only the Barisan Nasional could decide the destiny of the community. Otherwise, he claimed the Indians would continue to lag behind in many sectors compared with other communities.

"All I am asking is for the party to be admitted into the BN fold. I am not asking for a seat to contest in the coming general election. It's not about Pandithan but the fate of the party's 500,000 members," he said.

Pandithan said this in his speech at the party's eighth general assembly here. Also present was Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Some 2,000 delegates attended the one-day meeting.

Pandithan said he was "willing to die" but would never dissolve the IPF.

"We have waited for 10 years to be admitted into the BN. We are willing to wait longer but we will never dissolve the party," he said.

Pandithan said the party would continue to support Dr Mahathir, and the Barisan Nasional candidates in the coming general election even if it was yet to be admitted into the coalition.

"Our election machinery is ready. We have 20,000 IPF youths and another 10,000 women waiting for the word go. We will get down to work the moment Parliament is dissolved," he said.

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