

20 MAY 2001

MIC-Resolution

MIC WANTS 10 PER CENT QUOTA FOR INDIANS IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

JOHOR BAHRU, May 20 (Bernama) -- The 55th MIC general assembly today unanimously endorsed a 12-point resolution, among them urging the Education Ministry to allocate "at least a 10 per cent" quota for Indian students in each faculty at local public universities.

This is to enable the Indian community to move in tandem with the other races in the country towards a socio-economic equitable position.

"The implementation of the (present) quota system has not increased the participation of Indian students in public universities so as to reflect their racial composition in the country," according to the resolution.

However, the resolution does not mention the present quota.

The Education Ministry is also urged to increase the intake of Indian students into post-SPM degree courses so as to accommodate all high achievers and prevent a brain drain and a negative attitude towards the Barisan Nasional.

The two-day assembly was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here yesterday.

Another resolution urges the ministry to convert all SRJK (Tamil) schools which are partially aided to fully-aided schools irrespective of the ownership of the school sites.

Another resolution on economics saw the delegates calling on the government to set up a national unit trust fund similar to the one set up by Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) to be managed by PNB or the government to ensure the realisation of the 3 per cent equity target for the Indians within the next 10 years.

The resolution notes that the equity share increase of the Indians from 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent over the last 30 years is extremely low compared to the share equity of Bumiputera and Chinese communities.

It welcomes the government's assurance that measures will be taken under the Eighth Malaysia Plan to increase Indian equity share to 3 per cent by 2010 and that in this regard a study be undertaken to formulate appropriate strategies to increase participation of Indians in the economy.

The assembly also urged the Human Resources Ministry to implement five policies in an attempt to increase the income and uplift quality of life of estate workers.

The five policies are:

-- taking firm and drastic measures to implement the Home Ownership Scheme for Estate and Mining Workers;

-- ensuring estate managements provide electricity, piped water, roads and other basic amenities;

-- securing the cooperation of state governments not to approve conversion of estate lands for housing and other purposes unless and until the proposed development plan includes provisions for alternate housing for displaced workers and relocation of schools and temples;

-- ensuring that displaced workers receive fair and adequate compensation, retraining and placement jobs and end-finance to purchase low-cost houses; and

-- strictly enforcing the Minimum Standard of Housing and Amenities Act 1999 which requires managements to provide a minimum of 250 sq m plot for each estate worker.

Another resolution urges the government to expedite the study and implementation of the monthly wage system for rubber plantation workers.

The MIC wants the government to set up a special implementing and coordinating agency to ensure effective and efficient implementation of socio-economic and infrastructure redevelopment programmes, especially in eradicating urban poverty and squatter problems.

Noting the imbalance between Bumiputera and non-Bumiputeras employed in the public and private sectors, the MIC urges the government to set up a monitoring mechanism and management plan to ensure Indians get a fair and equitable representation in the public and private sectors.

The party also wants the Education Ministry to integrate Peoples Own Language (POL) classes during normal school hours and to instruct all secondary schools to organise POL classes if there are 15 Indians students without requiring written request from their parents.

It urges the government, relevant ministries and agencies to provide business opportunities for Malaysian Indians in small and medium businesses and create more opportunities for loans, permits, licences in franchise and vendor development and youth entrepreneurial schemes for the community.

One resolution urges that Thaipusam be declared a national public holiday.

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