

18 MAY 2002

MIC-Resolutions

MIC URGES GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT OPP RECOMMENDATION

SHAH ALAM, May 18 (Bernama) -- MIC today urged the government to implement the recommendations of the 3rd Outline Perspective Plan (OPP), which spells out ways to increase Indian equity ownership in the country from 1.5 per cent currently, to 3 per cent.

The party said the government needs to formulate appropriate strategies and programmes following the OPP 3 to address the imbalance in equity ownership among the various races, especially Indians.

MIC urged the government to establish an implementation and monitoring mechanism under the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) or the Implementation and Co-ordination Unit (ICU) to ensure the OPP3 targets are achieved.

This was among the 11 resolutions tabled and passed by the party at its two-day Annual General Assembly which began here today.

In another resolution, it wanted the government to provide Indians access to business development programmes involving grants, loans, permits, and franchise licenses and also called for more business opportunities for Indians in the country.

On employment of Indians in the public sector, the party wanted the government to increase awareness on availability of job opportunities for them in the public sector and to set specific targets in such recruitments.

"The government is also urged to set up a monitoring mechanism to ensure that the Indians have a fair and equitable representation in government service," the resolution said.

The party also wanted to see an end to the suffering of estate workers in the country, who are mostly Indians, by paving the way for them to be paid fixed monthly wages.

It further wanted the government to provide incentives to plantation managements for the introduction of new technologies and innovations and to encourage both downstream industries and other end-users to invest in rubber plantations.

On places of worship for non-Muslims, the party said despite freedom of worship being enshrined in the Constitution, non-Muslims faced problems in acquiring land to build their places of worship and to practise their respective religions.

It wanted the Housing and Local Government Ministry to formulate guidelines and direct all local authorities to ensure that suitable sites are reserved for places of worship for non-Muslims before layout and structural plans are approved.

The party also urged all state governments and local authorities to give residents of longhouses the first option to acquire low-cost housing upon completion and to establish an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure that local authorities provide adequate social amenities such as community halls and playing fields.

In another resolution, the party wanted the government to devise a clear framework of action for implementation of the RM20 million eradication of social ills programme for its implementation which is now into its second year.

It also called on the Education Ministry to upgrade the quality of teaching of Malay and English languages in SJK (T) schools, to introduce remedial programmes for the low achievers in secondary schools and increasing allocations to upgrade buildings and infrastructure facilities.

The party also wanted the ministry to integrate the Pupils Own Language

(POL) classes within normal school hours and direct all the secondary schools to organize Tamil language classes if there are 15 Tamil students, without request from parents being made.

The party also extended a resolution to support and thank Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his dynamic and farsighted leadership that has created unity among Malaysians of all races.

-- BERNAMA

SR AZZ ANA