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Poser over lack of equity ownership by Indians

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EVEN as the role of Indians in national development was acknowledged at the 57th MIC annual general assembly, questions were also asked about the lack of growth in equity ownership by the community.

The Tamil Press highlighted Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's opening address at the assembly on Saturday where he placed on record the role played by Indians in toiling for the betterment of all Malaysians.

Tamil Nesan, in its page one lead story on Saturday, quoted Dr Mahathir as saying that the country had also not forgotten the Indian contribution towards fighting for independence.

Highlighting his point that rubber tappers had played a vital role in helping the economy in the nation's early years, the newspaper quoted him as saying that the Government had always been sensitive to the problems of the community.

Malaysia Nanban on Saturday underlined MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's complaint that little had been done to help realise the proposal that India equity ownership be increased from 1.5 per cent to three per cent by 2010.

It quoted him in his presidential address as urging Dr Mahathir to review efforts in this direction under the Eighth Malaysia Plan, which was supposed to address this issue.

Tamil Nesan on Saturday also quoted Samy Vellu as thanking Dr Mahathir for his role in ensuring that plantation workers received a minimum monthly wage of RM350.