

**Hindraf: Najib has smashed Indians' nambikei**  
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**By Leven Woon**

The Hindu Rights Action Force (Hindraf) brought a watermelon to a protest at the Prime Minister Office (PMO) in Putrajaya today to press home how the BN government has broken the Indian community's trust.

hindraf watermelon rally 250312Playing on the word nambikei (trust) earlier used by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to woo the minority community, Hindraf said the Indian's nambikei has been smashed on the ground like tembikai (Malay for watermelon).

In the second such rally this year, over 100 Indians converged in Putrajaya at about 10am, requesting a meeting with the PM on the group's 18-point demand to solve issues concerning their community.

During the rally, Hindraf leaders held up a watermelon with nambikei written on it.

Hindraf de facto leader P Uthayakumar (above, right in photo) said the PMO on March 22 acknowledged their meeting request for either Najib, or in his absence, his political secretary.

They were however disappointed today when Putrajaya OCPD told Uthayakumar that no one from PMO could meet him.

hindraf watermelon rally 250312Upset, Uthayakumar led the crowd to chant "Umno racist" before smashing the watermelon on the ground.

"Our nambikei on you (Najib) has been smashed like this tembikai," he said.

Najib had bandied the Tamil term around during his Thaipusam speech at Batu Caves in February, in an attempt to encourage Indians to support him saying that would enable him to assist the community.

However Uthayakumar considered the no-show by Najib today as a clear indication that BN government will not address Indian concerns.

"We have asked him to send an official if he could not meet us, but not one of them is interested in Indian problems.

"We have lost confidence in Umno's rule of Putrajaya. Down Umno!" he said, leading the protesters in another chant.

"Never mind, this is the last time we are going to see them in Putrajaya. (Come the next general election), Umno will be chased out from Putrajaya," Uthayakumar said to the applauding crowd.

'Incoming prime minister'

The former ISA detainee also announced that Hindraf was ready to hold another round of talks with opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, whom he called "the incoming prime minister".

"We are going to meet Anwar on April 22 in Klang and we will ask him to tell the Indian community what can he do for them, What Pakatan has done for the Indians.

hindraf watermelon rally 250312"His answer will determine our strategy in the coming general election," he said.

Hindraf had staged a similar protest last month demanding the Najib government recognise their 18-point demands and urimai (rights) of the Indians.

The demands, Hindraf argued, were for basic rights that would help uplift the Indian community.

A document outlining the 18 points was handed over to then-prime minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in 2007, and it was a key factor leading to the Hindraf rally in November that year.

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