

HRP: Pakatan should give way to us
Malaysiakini.com
November 25, 2010

The Hindu Rights Action Force (Hindraf) has urged Pakatan Rakyat to "give way" to allow straight fights between the movement's political arm Human Rights Party (HRP) and BN in the upcoming general elections.

"We want 15 parliamentary seats and 38 state seats. We are not the spoilers. It is Pakatan that are the spoilers.

NONE" They should give us the opportunity to go one-on-one with BN in Indian majority areas," said Hindraf legal advisor and HRP pro-tem secretary-general P Uthayakumar (right, in orange shirt).

HRP pro-tem information chief S Jayathas said that it was incumbent upon Pakatan to give way because Hindraf had helped the opposition coalition in the March 2008 elections, which saw them making huge electoral gains.

"We are the one who put them up there, that is why we can ask them for what we want," he said.

According to Uthayakumar, he said such an arrangement would be mutually beneficial as the movements will throw its support behind Pakatan in other seats not contested by HRP.

The duo were speaking to reporters at the conclusion of a gathering in front of the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) Twin Towers to commemorate the third anniversary of Hindraf's mass rally to protest against alleged state marginalisation of the Indian community.

Uthaya: We have no choice

Uthayakumar said that Hindraf had no choice but to take political action because neither BN nor Pakatan is addressing the needs of the Indian community.

"We can only depend on ourselves to fight for our rights," said Uthayakumar, who added that the problems plaguing the Indian community stretches from "womb to tomb".

"When Indians are born they are not issued birth certificates, when you die they snatch your body and say you are a Muslim," he lamented.

He said that HRP has identified seats with sizeable Indian electorate in seven states which are regarded as the party's "frontline" in its struggle.

He said that the party have identified seats which have sizeable number of Indian voters in seven states, which includes Parliament seats held by Pakatan such as Batu Kawan, Teluk Kemang, Kota Raja and state seats of Port Dickson and Sri Andalas.

Asked if the Pakatan's current crop of ethnic Indian MPs was adequate representation of the community, Uthayakumar replied in the negative.

"They are mandores (estate supervisors)! They are powerless and cannot act for us as they are tied by party rules," he said.

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