

MIC Always A Relevant Party
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KUALA LUMPUR -- MIC has always been a relevant party although the party had lost the people's support during the last general election.

Its president G. Palanivel said since Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak took over the helm and came up with the 1Malaysia concept, his public walkabouts and many other policies, the support for Barisan Nasional (BN) components had been growing.

"Maybe this (loss of support) was caused by many factors including not addressing the right issues and being in the comfort zone for a long time as well as the changing world trend in politics," he said in an hour-long interview with the New Straits Times (NST) Live yesterday.

Palanivel said support was growing for the party during the last three by-elections in Tenang (Johor), Merlimau (Melaka) and Kerdau (Pahang).

He said the support was also seen when Najib joined the New Year celebrations of the Indian community at the Mines Resort City on April 15 that was attended by some 20,000 people.

"We lost this support on March 8, 2008. We have to sustain support, increase it and at the same time, the government must come out in big way to support and develop the Indian community," he said.

He was asked to comment on his vision for the party and the Malaysian Indians vis-a-vis Wawasan 2020 after taking over the leadership from former president, S. Samy Vellu.

Palanivel said the party was preparing in a focussed way in several parliamentary and state seats to bring back Indian votes.

"We have identified the seats which have a significant number of Indian votes and also places where we lost with very narrow margins. We can count those votes and bring the voters back," he said.

Meanwhile, he said the MIC was also planning something similar to hold an election dry run like Umno in preparation for the next general election.

(Bernama)