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# It's a lie, says Najib

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> MCA never asked for DPM, finance minister posts

**PORT DICKSON:** Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has denied MCA had requested for the post of deputy prime minister, as claimed by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Najib said throughout his tenure, MCA had never asked to be given the number two post and the post of finance minister.

"This is a lie. MCA has three ministerial posts and they are thankful," he said at a luncheon in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the Malaysian Tamil Youth Bell Club in Lukut yesterday.

Also present were MIC president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Dewan Negara president Datuk Seri S.A. Vigneswaran, MyPPP president Tan Sri M. Kayveas, MIC former president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Gerakan vice-president Datuk A. Kohilan Pillay.

Mahathir was quoted to have said DAP wanted the post of deputy prime minister if the opposition pact wins the 14th general election.

In his blog on Friday, the former prime minister made a U-turn by correcting his earlier statement that MCA had asked for the post and not DAP.

Speaking before a 3,000-strong audience, Najib urged the people not to be influenced by the Opposition's propaganda.

He also said the people, especially youths in the country, must have a sophisticated mind, world-class borderless thinking and be knowledgeable, Bernama reported.

"But if knowledge is not aligned to morals, values and culture, intellect alone is meaningless. We want both.

"We want to be rooted in good values, rooted in our own culture (and) history to strengthen our identity but our mind must be 'internationalised'," he said.

Najib said although the Indian community made up only 7.4% of the population, Indians had made many contributions to national development.

"Based on history, it cannot be denied

the Indian community made great contributions and we should recognise this."

The Malaysian Tamil Youth Bell Club was formed in 1956 to promote the Tamil language, arts and culture and has 24,552 members and 292 branches nationwide.

At the event, Najib presented a cheque for RM2.18 million to Mohamad for the construction of Tamil schools in the state.

Speaking at a separate event later, Najib said Malaysians need to focus on efforts on instilling unity instead of giving attention to matters pertaining to disagreements and differences in opinion.

He said as a multiracial and multi-religious country, any kind of disagreement and differences in opinion should be handled with care.

"There may be some problems when it comes to differences in opinion, but that's normal.

"To say there is no problem at all is not right, but we must be able to set aside differences and focus on matters that can instil unity and harmony," he said when opening the Wisma Ceylonese building in Jalan Sungai Ujong, Seremban.