

**MIC Must Be The First Choice Party For Indians – Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, July 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants the MIC to be perceived as a strong party and the main choice among the Indian community in the country.

As such, the Prime Minister reminded MIC members to be united and not to form factions because they had a role to 'serve' the Indian community, and thus draw their support for the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"If we want to ensure that the MIC becomes the party of choice for the Indian community in the country, the MIC must be inclusive where there will be no factions in the party. There must be only one MIC.

"If we look at the football match between Malaysia and Singapore, we see that although we have good strikers...if the defence is weak...our goal will be open to attack. We fail.

"It means that if the MIC wants to be strong, the leadership at all levels must move as a united team. Then only will the MIC become a strong party," he said when opening the 65th MIC General Assembly at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC), here Saturday.

Also present were MIC president Datuk G.Palanivel and former party president, Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu.

Najib said that based on the outcome of several by-elections in the past, he had confidence in the new leadership of MIC to win back the support of the Indian community for the BN.

He said that the various programmes implemented by the MIC previously, including MyDaftar, had received encouraging response from the Indian community and more of such programmes should be carried out.

The Prime Minister said the government was also aware of the contribution of the Indian community towards the country's development in the past, especially in the rubber estate sector, construction of railway tracks as well as roads, and the government would ensure that they would not be left out of the mainstream of development.

He gave an assurance that the government, through the MIC, would continue to implement various programmes for the development of the Indian community in the country.

"The Tamil proverb states 'Ottrumaiyee Balam' (unity is strength), if this group (MIC) does not succeed, we cannot depend on other groups. All the 3,700 (MIC) branches, please do your work," he added.

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