

Delegate Calls For Think Tank To Uplift Economy Of Indian Community
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PUTRAJAYA, July 31 (Bernama) -- A delegate at MIC's general assembly appealed to the party's leadership to form a think tank to come out with strategies to uplift the economy of the Indian community.

Batu division chairman C. Ramanathan said the group should not only comprise financial experts from MIC but outside experts from the Indian community as well.

"It is time that we shift our mindset towards economic upliftment of the Indian community as our first priority. Our economic equity is only 1.1 per cent, it must be increased in stages to three per cent, five per cent or even higher.

"If it (think tank) can help increase our economic participation it will automatically solve a lot of problems on children's education, unemployment, scholarships, social problems and others," he said when debating the MIC president's policy speech at the party's 65th annual general assembly at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre here today.

Also present at today's session of the assembly were MIC president Datuk G Palanivel, deputy president Datuk Dr S Subramaniam.

Another delegate, Putrajaya division chairman S.S Ganapathy the time had come for small entrepreneurs from the community to go global and that one of the ways to do this was to opt for the franchising model.

At the time of filing this report, the debate session proceeded smoothly with the chairman Tan Sri S Kumaran controlling things in a firm but friendly manner.

He made sure delegates stuck to their allotted time of five minutes and the subject at hand.

A delegate, M. Vickneswari, from the Shah Alam division, got a blasting from him when she urged the MIC leadership to form a special committee to choose MIC senators and candidates for the next election.

Telling the delegate to think before she spoke, Kumaran said:"Are you saying that our president (Datuk G Palanivel) is not qualified to choose (the candidates)?."

When another delegate called for Indians and Chinese to be recognised as "Anak Malaysia" (Children of Malaysia) just like Bumiputera for Malays and other indigenous ethnic groups and not by their race, Kumaran such an intention was good but reminded the delegate that just like their Bumiputera counterparts, they too were born raised and would die in Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA