

**MIC Against Full Membership In BN For Other Indian-based Parties**  
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PUTRAJAYA, July 31 (Bernama) -- Indian-based political parties can join the Barisan Nasional (BN) as associate or affiliate members but not as a component parties, said MIC president Datuk G. Palanivel.

"They can become affiliate or associate members. We have no objections. But as a main component (in BN) we will not allow other Indian-based parties to get full membership status, (and) we will walk out (if it is otherwise)," he told a press conference after closing the party's 65th general assembly here Sunday.

He said MIC had all along been the largest political party representing the Indian community in BN and that it would not allow any other splinter Indian-based political groups to usurp its role.

However, the party welcomed these groups to join the MIC, he said, adding that some of them had shown positive response when approached.

However, he refrained from revealing who they were.

Among the other Indian-based political parties in the country are the Indian Progressive Party (IPF), Malaysian Makkal Sakti (MMS) and Malaysian Indian United Party (MIUP).

The Malaysian Indian Muslim Congress (KIMMA) has become an affiliate member of Umno since Aug 27, 2010.

Earlier, in his speech, Palanivel said it was vital for the party members to be registered as voters.

"Currently only 390,000 party members (out of 600,000) have registered as voters, and I am confident that by December, we will be able to get the remaining members to be registered as voters.

"I want to turn MIC into a powerful voting block," he added.

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