

Be resourceful, MIC tells Indians
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MOVING FORWARD: Need for community to rebrand in line with transformation plan

KUALA LUMPUR: THE Indian community must be a part of the government's transformation programme which has been constantly emphasised by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel said the community must change and be focused on moving forward.

"The government has taken various measures for the development of the community.

"It is now in our hands to rebrand ourselves and become a resourceful community," he said in his speech at the 11th GOPIO International Convention 2012, near here, on Saturday.

GOPIO or Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin is a group to bond Indians around the world as a global community.

This year's convention, hosted by Malaysia, aims to provide new policies and guidelines for effective networking, attain growth in enterprises, promote higher education and provide intellectual and material support to create a global virtual community.

The three-day conference focuses on five main areas namely business; education; social, cultural and community development; ayurveda and siddha science and diaspora language.

Palanivel, who is also the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said more successful Indians should come forward to be part of such conferences to help their community.

"We have very prominent Indians around the world, but they are rarely involved in community development programmes.

"The conference will see bigger success if those who are doing well contribute to the development of the less-empowered groups."

Palanivel also urged the education ministry to set up a separate division to undertake the development and construction of Tamil schools.

Palanivel said the division should have members comprising engineers, designers and finance officers.

"Wherever we go, we get requests from Tamil schools for various assistance.

"If there is a separate division, it could deal with the requests directly.

"The division can also set up a website and an email system where it can receive and monitor the Tamil schools online."

Palanivel said the task of looking into the problems of Tamil schools should not be a burden of the MIC alone.

"The education ministry should be totally in charge of this."

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