

Gelang Patah Manifesto Copy Of BN's Development Programme - Minister Bernama
4 April, 2013

PUTRAJAYA, April 4 (Bernama) -- MIC deputy president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam has described DAP's Gelang Patah manifesto for the Indian community as a copy of the government's existing development programme.

The human resources minister said the opposition party's manifesto to supposedly improve the socio-economic status of the Indian community was part of efforts and transformations carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"There's nothing new in the manifesto. Everything in it is already being taken care of, by the government. We began working on the issues since 2009.

"We've seen results such as development in Tamil schools, education, job opportunities, skills and vocational training, efforts to increase income, issues on documentation and more," he told reporters here Thursday.

Dr Subramaniam said the opposition party had no new agenda for the development of the Indian community's socio-economic development like the commitment shown by the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

Among the declarations contained in the manifesto are: to resolve the problem of stateless Indians within 100 days; to establish a national housing board to build decent, affordable housing for marginalised groups, especially displaced Indian plantation workers; to ensure that all national-type Tamil Schools are fully funded and the infrastructure of each school is on par with national schools.

To invest in technical and vocational training along with apprenticeship programmes to provide an alternative education and career path for school drop-outs from low income Indian families; to provide jobs and raise the wages of low income Indians by implementing a RM1,100 minimum wage scheme and increase the number of Indians in government-linked companies, local councils and civil service.

Dr Subramaniam said issues affecting the Indian community continued to be given attention to ensure progress and competitiveness for the third largest ethnic group.

"MIC and Barisan Nasional will announce an improved agenda for the Indians soon. What's clear is that the opposition's manifesto is not different from what we are doing now.

"They haven't suggested anything radical or new. We (BN) have already implemented it and there they (opposition) are putting on paper what we did. We haven't seen anything done in states run by the opposition, so it's time to let the people decide," he added.

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