

COMMUNITY: Indians must have 'nambikei' in Najib
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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has on a few occasions asked the Indian community to give him the "nambikei" (trust) to carry on his programmes for the betterment of the community.

As chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Indian Affairs, he has introduced benefits and opportunities for the community and this must be an ongoing effort.

He has engaged with Indian- based parties and understands their grievances. He continues to introduce measures for the community as was outlined in the recent Unity Ponggal celebration.

The measures are by no means small and represent a milestone in his efforts to bring the community into the mainstream of society.

The community still needs government intervention on a consistent basis to narrow the gap with the other communities.

Among the measures:

TO work towards the conversion of Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil (SJKT) schools from partially-aided to fully-aided schools. This is a good start as pupils studying in cabins or containers will become a thing of the past;

TO set up pre-school education in SJKT. This is crucial to build a community that does not miss out on early education;

TO upgrade Tafe College into a university college. This is long overdue as they have been producing technical graduates for the past 20 years;

TO fund more community centres and crematoriums for the Indian community; and,

TO raise equity of the Indian community from 1.5 to three per cent.

The Indian community must come together and give support for these measures to come to fruition. The community is now scattered in various factions and parties, each fighting for its own cause.

They should learn to place their trust in the government of the day to see better times.

The community has been beset with problems. The younger generation has been involved in social problems due to their displacement from the estates and lack of job and business opportunities.

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