

KPI for cabinet committee on Indians

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Oleh FMT Staff

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak has set key performance index (KPI) for the Cabinet Committee on Indian Affairs at the meeting with the committee yesterday.

The committee comprising Najib, MIC president G Palanivel, who is also Natural Resources and Environment Minister, deputy president and Health Minister Dr S Subramaniam, MIC vice president and Youth and Sports deputy minister M Saravanan and P Kamalanathan, the Education deputy minister and MIC central working committee member.

Sources in the Prime Minister's office revealed that all four in the committee have been entrusted with a particular area respectively and their performance would be evaluated through the set KPIs.

“They have been divided into four groups covering a wide spectrum such as education, youth, improvement of Tamil schools and temples and such. Each of them has been given one group each. They are supposed to work on areas thrust to them and report back on the progress.

“The Prime Minister has not set a date for the next meeting. But we expect it to be held three months once. He wants things to move fast. The general feeling is that 10 months have passed since the last general election and not much has moved since then,” said the source.

Yesterday Najib called for the meeting, reviving the Cabinet Committee on Indian Affairs after a three year hiatus.

The cabinet committee on Indian Affairs became dormant after Palanivel took over the MIC presidency from former president S Samy Vellu in 2010.

The initial plan was to have an Indian Affairs unit under the Prime Minister's Department but Hindraf's P Waythamoorthy threw a spanner in the works after he abruptly resigned as deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

He was made deputy minister after he signed a memorandum of understanding with the government before the last general election.

He was entrusted to look into Indian affairs but resigned last month saying that Najib did not have the will to walk the talk as far as Indians are concerned.

Setting the KPI for the committee would enable Najib to monitor its progress and give it a helping hand if the need arises.

Among issues discussed at the meeting yesterday include plight of Tamil schools, seats available for Indian students in public and private higher learning institutions, issuance of MyKad and birth certificates for Malaysian Indians and creation of more job opportunities for Indian in the

government.

The cabinet committee also deliberated on skills training and economic empowerment of Indian youth, construction and refurbishing of temples and community halls.

Meanwhile on another note Hindraf in a press statement questioned why Najib had revived the committee which had been defunct for the last three years.

“What is the Prime Minister up to? Has he suddenly found revelation on his non-performance on the Hindraf-BN MoU?

“This Cabinet committee will be hogwash to hoodwink the community. If the PM is trying to appease the Indian community that he is keeping to his promises by reviving the dead cabinet committee, he is unmistakably wrong on his assessment on the psyche of the Indian community,” Hindraf secretary P Ramesh said in the statement.

He said the Malaysian Indian community had, had enough of BN’s broken promises and their ‘wayang kulits’ with its Indian political allies.

“The community has totally lost any hope in the MIC, the official mouthpiece of government. MIC is seen by the public at large as a corrupted party which serves itself rather than the community,” he added.

He said Najib appears to be panicking in the wake of sliding Indian support and loss of confidence in his leadership.

“All piecemeal solutions and dishing of hand outs are not going to solve the problem of the community.

By reviving the MIC, which is a dead horse in times of crisis, is no solution. There is no point flogging a dead horse. Just get cracking and implement the promises made in the general elections whole heartedly with the help of sincere people out there who are really committed to helping the community,” said Ramesh.

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