

Hindraf dares MIC to quit Putrajaya if it fails to keep promises to Indians

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MIC leaders have been challenged to quit the Najib administration if Putrajaya fails to deliver its promises to the Indian community in providing better opportunities in higher education.

In throwing down the gauntlet to the MIC leadership, Hindraf co-chairman W. Sambulingam said the Indian party's deputy president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam and vice-president Datuk M.Saravanan should follow in the footsteps of Hindraf chairman P. Waytha Moorthy, who resigned as deputy minister on Monday out of frustration over Putrajaya's failure to adhere to the MoU agreed on before the 2013 general election.

"We challenge Subramaniam and Saravanan to openly say they would resign if Najib does not fulfil his promises," Sambulingam said in a statement yesterday, referring to Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

In an immediate response, Saravanan reportedly said that Waytha was the one who signed the MoU with the government on his own accord, without MIC's involvement.

"He was the one who signed the MoU. He did not request for me or other MIC members to join him to sign in.

"Now, suddenly, he resigned from his government posts and Hindraf wants me to do the same? Hindraf must be out of their mind," Saravanan reportedly told Astro Awani.

In the statement posted on Waytha's Facebook page, Sambulingam said that year after year, the issue of the government short-changing the Indian community in matriculation and university placements cropped up.

"PM Najib has repeatedly said that the Indians would be given 7% or 2,100 places in matriculation studies and that places in the public universities was also promised at 7%," he said.

He added that it was the general consensus among the Indian community that Subramaniam and Saravanan did "not have the guts" to resign their ministerial posts, or even question Putrajaya over its unfulfilled promises.

Sambulingam said it was also common knowledge among the Indian community that MIC "is a mouse" in the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition and that its leaders were only concerned with enriching themselves.

"MIC has lost all moral authority to speak for the community and there is no respect for its leaders.

"Either they are shunned or no one attends their functions unless money is offered," he added.

As such, he said that MIC leaders had no business commenting on Waytha's resignation.

"MIC should mind their own business and not interfere in our affairs," he added.

In the MoU signed with the BN before last year's general election, the coalition had promised Hindraf to tackle the community's problems, such as poverty, youth crime and a lack of educational opportunities, if it was returned to power with Hindraf's help.

After the national polls, Waytha joined the cabinet in a widely criticised move.

Since news of Waytha's resignation, Subramaniam has come out to say it would not affect the representation of the Indian community in the government.

"I don't think they (Hindraf) could have raised any issues which have not been raised before, because we have virtually raised all those possible issues. It's a matter of implementation to our (MIC) satisfaction," Subramaniam had said. – February 12, 2014.

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