

Be true to your community and leave Barisan, Hindraf's Waytha tells MIC
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The MIC must leave the Barisan Nasional to prove its sincerity towards the Indian community as the coalition is incapable of looking after the welfare of the community, Hindraf chairman P. Waytha Moorthy, who recently resigned from the cabinet, said today.

Waytha reminded MIC of the party's past leaders such as John Thivy, Budh Singh, Devasar and Ramanathan, saying they would be proud if the present MIC leadership took such bold a step.

"This is because the the MIC's early struggle was for the protection of rights of downtrodden Malaysian Indians who were mostly plantation workers," he said in a statement.

Waytha resigned as deputy minister and senator two weeks ago, to show his disappointment with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's administration.

He said Najib failed to honour an agreement to uplift the Indian community, signed between Hindraf and BN before the general election last year.

Waytha also hit out at the BN, saying it "falsely propagated" that some half-a-billion was dispersed to the Indians over the past five years.

"For a start this so-called development effort is peanuts for 56 years of being marginalised. On the other hand, even if it is true, the RM500 million never reached the community," he added.

He said Hindraf was of the view that the various ministries have failed to deliver to the Indians as the entrenched system did not work in favour of the minorities.

He said the Education Ministry had failed to disburse scholarships and places in universities and matriculation on a fair basis, while the ministry responsible for welfare would give the flimsiest reason to reject poor Indians' applications for aid.

He also took to task the Health Ministry and the Malaysian Medical Council, saying they deliberately derecognised the Crimea State Medical University which was an affordable medical college for the poor Indians, resulting in thousands unrecognised medical degree holders in Malaysia.

He further said the Agriculture, Housing and Human Resources Ministries had failed to provide alternative agriculture ventures, job training opportunities, alternative land and houses, nor adequate compensation for the 800,000 displaced plantation workers since 1970s.

"This has resulted in a new urban underclass and rise in crime among Indians. The list of human rights violation goes on but MIC, the supposedly Indian representative in the government has failed in its role.

"All it does is short change the community and act as a propaganda mouthpiece for the government in sidelining from the real and grave issues affecting the minority Indian community," he added.

Waytha said MIC engaged the poor Indians through the Tamil media by announcing that "the MIC is the government and doing this and that", without comprehensive solution to solve their woes.

Waytha said the MIC should stop its downslide by leaving the BN.

"Do it with a sense of dignity and honour, not as political slaves to the 'tuans' as you are doing now," he added.

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