

Najib to blame for MIC's woes, says Palanivel
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By Elizabeth Zachariah

Embattled MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel today blamed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak for the tussle between two warring camps over the highest position in the party.

In a rally to declare support for him at the Putra World Trade Centre today, Palanivel said Najib had sided with the Registrar of Societies (RoS) and put pressure on Barisan Nasional's largest ethnic Indian party to reject the party elections held in 2013.

"Barisan Nasional and the PM himself got involved in putting pressure on MIC to reject the results of our validated 2013 elections and for the party to take sides with our detractors," he said during his speech to the cheers of thousands who had come to show their support for him.

"This is the greatest challenge MIC has faced in its 70 years of history. The issue is simple and clear. This is a battle between right and wrong. Between justice and unlawfulness. Between order and chaos. Between good and evil."

The MIC saga erupted following differences in opinion between Palanivel and his deputy Datuk Seri S. Subramaniam after the RoS issued a notice last December 5 directing the party to hold fresh elections for the three vice-presidential and 23 CWC posts.

The RoS had nullified the elections held in November 2013 following complaints of irregularities and ordered fresh polls to be held.

Palanivel took his case to the High Court but last Monday his two judicial review applications to quash the directive of the RoS to hold new elections were dismissed.

The court upheld the registrar's decision for the party to hold re-elections at all levels (branches and divisions), including the president's post.

Today, Palanivel said the party would hold its branch election from August until year-end and wanted the 2,764 branches to support him as their leader and those still in the central committee.

In his speech, Palanivel also said that he wanted to expel his detractors, led by Subramaniam but in a press conference later, appeared to have toned down on the notion.

"No, he is only suspended. Don't worry about it," he said, when asked about whether he plans to sack Dr Subramaniam, who is also the health minister.

Palanivel, who claimed that some 10,000 people had turned up at PWTC to support him, said Najib had told him last Friday to hold elections to solve the party's problems.

"I spoke to him on Friday and he told me to not worry about the RoS and any other issue... but to hold elections."

He also brushed off concerns about whether Dr Subramaniam would agree to fresh elections, saying that his deputy has already been suspended.

"We don't have to ask the other side about this. The other side are all suspended. Don't worry about him (Dr Subramaniam). He has no authority." – June 20, 2015.

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