

**Umno minister hits out at MIC for blaming Najib**  
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**By Diyana Ibrahim**

Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim became the first Umno minister to defend his boss from Datuk Seri G. Palanivel, saying it was unethical for the embattled MIC president to blame Datuk Seri Najib Razak for the party's crisis.

He said Palanivel's actions in openly blaming the prime minister for MIC's crisis is not fair and as a senior leader, the natural resources and environment minister should not have publicly made such statement.

"It is unethical to openly comment. If there is any problems... go and see Najib, the prime minister is very concerned with what's happening in MIC, he should not openly commented... he should blame himself," Shahidan told The Malaysian Insider.

At a rally to declare support for him at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday, Palanivel said Najib sided with the Registrar of Societies (RoS) and pressed MIC 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."

His remark prompted Najib to write on his Facebook and Twitter accounts earlier today that he will summon the minister to explain his statement.

"I'll summon @GPalanivel to explain his reported comments at PWTC. He shd stop blaming others & must abide by the decision of the courts &RoS," Najib wrote on his twitter account which also tagged Palanivel.

Shahidan reminded Palanivel of Najib's generosity when he allocated four government posts to the Barisan Nasional component party although it only won three parliamentary seats at the last general election two years ago.

"They got two ministerial and two deputy minister posts, this has never happened anywhere in the world.

"I do not want to interfere in MIC matters. But to me, Najib's contributions to the Indian community is bigger than the Indian leaders themselves, they (Palanivel)

should thank Najib," he said.

At the same time, the minister in the prime minister's department reminded other BN component parties not to interfere in their problems and allow it to be resolved according to the law.

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 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.

The crisis also saw both Palanivel and Subramaniam claiming to be the party chief. – June 21, 2015.

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