

PM Najib Pledges To Continue Aid To Indian Community
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- The government pledges to continue assistance to the Indian community to help them improve their structure, culture and economy from being marginalised from the mainstream of national development.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the government had always been committed in helping every ethnic group in the country in order that national development was really inclusive, sustainable, fair and equitable.

"We want every ethnic group big or small to enjoy the fruits of the country's development so that they do not feel left behind in mainstream development," he said when speaking at the Special Unit for Socio-Economic Development of the Indian Community (SEDIC) grant presentation to Indian non governmental organisations (NGOs) here today.

Also present was MIC President Datuk Dr Seri Subramaniam, who is also Health Minister.

Najib said since his administration in 2009, various aid initiatives had been given to the Indian community, including economic assistance via Tekun, SME and Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia.

"Believe me, we will continue this assistance," he said.

Najib also advised the Indian community in the country to put aside matters that are barriers and continue to look forward to achieve success.

"Just now Dr Subramaniam (Datuk Seri S Subramaniam) uses the word chronic...I interpret that when mentioning chronic related to the value, attitude and cultural, it needs to be changed.

"So we change not only to provide assistance and projects but change from the aspect of mind set or cultural change in order to be more sustainable to compete, be self-reliant and moving forward to attain more meaningful success," he said.

Najib also hoped that through MIC, the Barisan Nasional (BN) component party and NGOs that supported BN would focus on helping the Indian community so that they could undergo changes in terms of cultural and structural transformation.

Meanwhile Dr Subramaniam said the support given by the Indian community in the country was viewed as not balance with the assistance given by the government to them.

"We see there is a 'disconnect of support' from a handful of people in the community against the government.

"This matter should be analysed to find out the reasons and must be overcome urgently," he said.

At the function, Najib presented SEDIC grants, totalling RM8,892,441, to 30 Indian NGOs to carry out their community activities.

The amount is part of the total grant of RM82 million that has been approved to 370 Indian NGOs this year.

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