

PM Assures will Solve Citizenship Problems Faced by Indian Community

Bernama

Aug 6, 2016

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has give his assurance to solve the issue of citizenship faced by members of the Indian community who were born before independence.

Najib said the time had come for those who had yet obtained citizenship to redeem their right.

"It needs not to be delayed anymore. I am aware that there are members of the Indian community who were born before independence and have yet to obtain citizenship.

"We will solve this in appreciation of the sacrifice of the Indian community which has contributed to the development of the country," he said when launching MIC's 70th anniversary celebrations, here, Saturday night.

Speaking before 7,000 members of the party, Najib said the government would also prepare hostels for the children of the rural Indian community who were faced with social issues to ensure that they would also received opportunities for quality education.

Najib, who is also the chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Indian Affairs, also reiterated his commitment that all efforts to increase the socio-economic standing the community would continue.

"A lot of efforts have been implemented. Since 2009 a total of 26,000 entrepreneurs from the Indian community were assisted with allocations totalling RM844.39 million, while RM760 million was allocated for the SJKT (Nationa-Type Tamil Schools) education infrastructure and I have also approved seven more SJKTs for construction," he said.

In the meantime, Najib also reminded that the concept of togetherness between races in the country must be maintained to ensure continued political stability.

He said although the Indian community in the country only makes up 7.3 per cent of the population, it was a community of loyal friends to the Barisan Nasional.

MIC which was established on Aug 6, 1946, was a product of the Malayan Indian

Conference attended by representatives of various social organisations, which then joined the alliance of UMNO and MCA in 1955. During the event, MIC also paid tributes to all the past presidents.

Also present were MIC president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, former MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and families of the late former presidents of the party.

Earlier, Dr S.Subramaniam in his speech, described MIC as now refreshed with a new leadership line up after facing an internal crisis for about 18 months.

He had also urged all the party leaders and members to give their 100 per cent towards advancement of the Indian community.

"The 'Single Voice, Common Goal' theme chosen for the anniversary calls on all party members to work together to achieve a common goal, which is to take care and fight for the welfare of the Indian community in this country from every angle," he added. -- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2016 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1270377>