

Govt to study Indian Muslims' request for Bumiputera status
Free Malaysia Today
July 19, 2017

Najib said, however, the matter of how it would be implemented required further research in terms of administration or gazettelement.

SERDANG: The government will study in-depth the request from the Indian Muslim community to be recognised as Bumiputera, Prime Minister Najib Razak said last night.

He said, however, the matter of how it would be implemented required further research in terms of administration or gazettelement.

"I heard the demand made by the Federation of Malaysian Indian Muslim Associations (Permim) president Dhajudeen Shahul Hameed, and I accept that Indian Muslims are like Bumiputeras," he said at the domestic trade, cooperatives and consumerism ministry's Aidilfitri celebration with Malaysian Indian Muslim non-governmental organisations here, yesterday.

Najib, who is also finance minister, accepted Dhajudeen's suggestion to set up an Indian Muslim community centre for members to reach out and discuss matters with the prime minister.

At the event, Dhajudeen made three demands, namely to gazette the community as Bumiputera, set up a Muslim Indian landmark in Kuala Lumpur or Putrajaya, and appoint a special officer in the Prime Minister's Department to manage the affairs of about one million Indian Muslims in the country.

In the meantime, Najib also announced that about 10,000 Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Owners Association (Presma) members had agreed to offer up to 20% discount at all their business premises with immediate effect in response to the government's call to help reduce the cost of living.

He said members of the disabled community would receive a 20% discount card, while for students it would be 10%, and 5% for Friends of the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism.

The event, attended by more than 15,000 Indian Muslim NGO leaders and their families, caught the attention of the prime minister, and he expressed his appreciation over the community's support for his leadership and the Barisan Nasional government.

“I can conclude that the Indian Muslim community in our country are strong supporters of, and loyal to BN,” he said.

Najib also acknowledged the great contribution of the Indian Muslim community to the country, especially in terms of serving restaurant food, where he understood there were about 10,000 Malabari Indian Muslim and Pakistani restaurants nationwide.

He said although the new generation of Indian Muslims chose professions such as accounting, law, and engineering over more “traditional” fields, such as money changers and newspaper sellers, the community’s support and commitment to the government remained unchanged.

“I want to bring Malaysia in line with the top 20 countries in the world in the future, so we must be ready to go past the 14th general election.

“Today, we will celebrate Aidilfitri. Not too long from now, we will celebrate another ‘hari raya’ which requires the support of Indian Muslims to make a new vision for Malaysia,” he said.

Najib also acknowledged his fondness for Indian Muslim food, including briyani, capati, tosai, and “nasi vanggey” in Ipoh, so much so, every time he visited the city, he would call up the restaurant manager to send him the dish in Ipoh or to Kuala Lumpur.

“My personal relationship with Indian Muslims is very good, and hopefully, all here will give support to the government led by myself.

“There is someone on the other side, a certain person who is also Indian Muslim, but I believe the Indian Muslim community is more supportive of me and hope this relationship will continue forever,” he said.

Copyright (C) 2009-2016 MToday News Sdn. Bhd. All Rights Reserved.

Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2017/07/19/govt-to-study-indian-muslims-request-for-bumiputera-status/>