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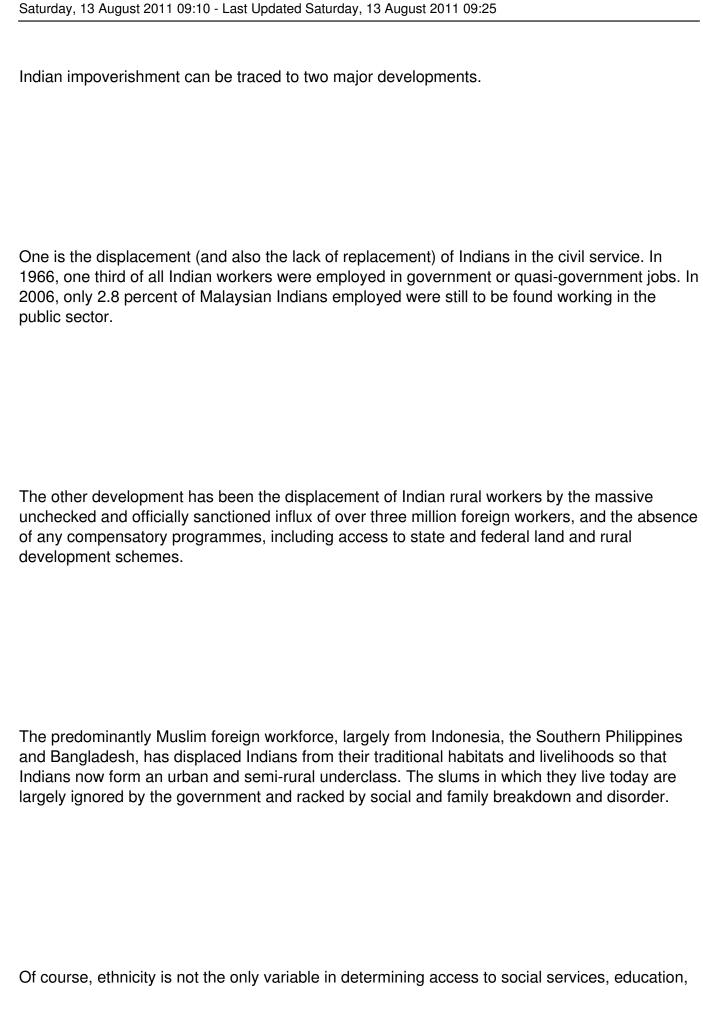
A UK-based solicitor and lawyer – appointed by Hindraf Makkal Sakthi – is scheduled to meet with members of the Malaysian public this Sunday (Aug 14).

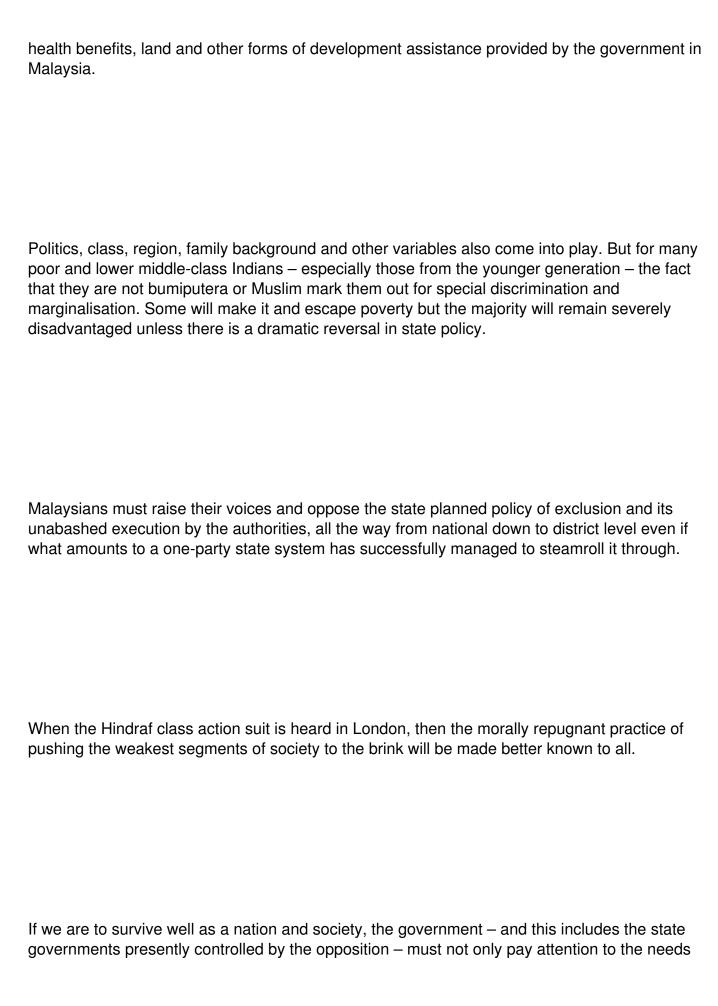
His fact-finding mission is to help him better understand the situation on the ground and interview those participating in the Hindraf class action suit. This lawsuit against the British government seeks to correct historical injustices inflicted on Indians who were brought to the peninsula by the white colonialists.

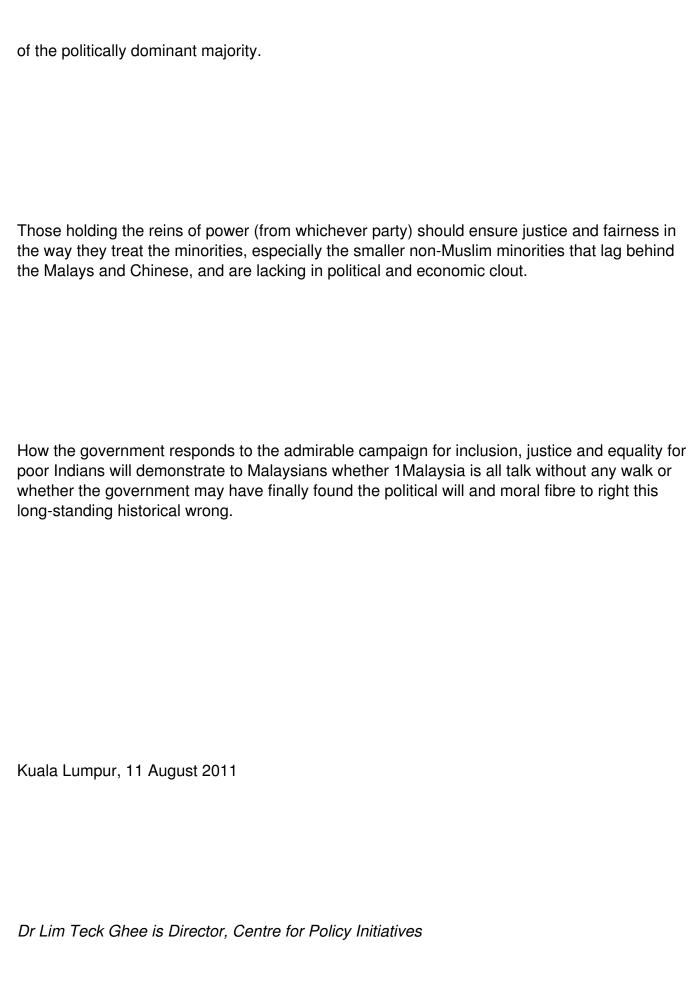
The Hindraf move is almost certain to court a fresh storm of controversy and criticism from

Umno, the party that will be most embarrassed when full details of the Indian marginalization emerge. The extent to which the local Indian community, particularly Hindus of Tamil stock, is excluded from the nation's progress and wellbeing can only reflect badly on the Malaysian government.
Due to the stony deaf ears at home, Hindraf has had no choice but to petition abroad for redress, as outlandish as the amount of relief sought might sound. The case being heard in England will enable it coverage from the international press. The deliberate neglect of a minority that perceives itself as oppressed by a government acting in bad faith will soon be laid bare to the world.
Umno's extremist supporters such as Perkasa and <i>Utusan Malaysia</i> persist in denying allegations of discrimination against Indians although the plight of the community's underclass is evident to all. Just look at who are the homeless people who sleep along five-footways in the derelict parts of town.
More thoughtful Malaysians, however, are aware that the Indian community has come down, and continued falling a long way, in their socio-economic development and life prospects.

Accusing the Indian-based organization Hindraf of disloyalty and worse is merely closing the stable door after the horse has bolted.
During the past 50 years since Independence, only a small minority of Indians have benefitted from the political and economic largesse handed out by the government. The majority have seen little or no improvement despite the fact that the much of the economic prosperity and development of the country was built, almost literally, on their back and their hard labour.
Disclosure of the exact socio-economic status of the community is hampered by a system in which there is a lack of transparency in the collection and release of data that may relate to the plight of non-Malays – the apparent fudging excused on grounds of ethnic sensitivity but more likely due to other politically driven manipulation and agenda.
Although difficult to come by, all available data clearly point to the fact that the relative performance of the Indian community has deteriorated across a wide range of socio-economic indicators. The decline has been especially steep over the last four decades after 1970 with the commencement of the NEP.







Hindraf lawsuit to correct historical and recent wrongs Saturday, 13 August 2011 09:10 - Last Updated Saturday, 13 August 2011 09:25