

PM: I'm not aware if MCA crisis will be discussed

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was not aware that the Aug. 17 meeting of the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council would discuss the MCA's possible expulsion from the coalition.

"I do not know about that (the motion). We are calling for a Barisan meeting (but) there is no agenda.

"We will talk about whatever matters may come up," the Prime Minister and Barisan chairman told reporters after launching the Che Wan Development Company in Ampang.

There has been speculation in the Press and MCA circles that the council would consider expelling the party to enable it to solve its problems outside the coalition.

Asked if he was denying the speculation, Dr Ma-

hathir said: "I don't know. Somebody is talking. I did not start the rumour."

He also declined to comment on the call by the Tan Koon Swan faction for an EGM after Aug. 17.

He said: "That is MCA business. I am not involved."

Dr Mahathir, however, said that among the items to be discussed at the meeting was Parti Bersatu Sabah's (PBS) application to join the Barisan.

This is the first time the Barisan Supreme Council is meeting since PBS defeated Berjaya in the Sabah State election in April.

Following its victory, the PBS applied to join the Barisan.

Newly-elected Berjaya president Datuk Muhammad Noor Mansor said last week that the party would oppose PBS' application.