

Mahathir: MCA can resolve own problems

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KUALA KLAWANG, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he is confident the MCA will be able to resolve its own problems.

"I am confident the party leaders are matured enough to solve their own problems," the Prime Minister said when asked by newsmen about reports of a possible contest for the party presidency next month.

On whether he would intervene in the matter, Dr Mahathir said he would not "as it is the party's internal affairs."

"Any intervention on my part will be tantamount to interfering with another party's affairs,"

Dr Mahathir told reporters after laying the foundation stone at the Mardi fruit research station at Kampung Lakai, about 40km from here.

He added that the MCA problems would not affect the Barisan Nasional's performance in the next general election.

Yesterday, MCA vice-president Woon See Chin reportedly said that he might contest the party presidency or deputy president next month.

In Petaling Jaya, MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik urged members to adopt a reasonable attitude to preserve unity and stability in the party.

Reasonableness, Dr Ling said, was the principal guideline to approaching all problems.

He was elaborating on a report in a Chinese daily today which quoted him as saying that he would try his best to preserve unity in the party.

Asked if this meant he would not defend his post in the party election next month, he replied: "I will not speculate."

In Butterworth, MCA deputy secretary-general Dr Ting Chew Peh said the party election regulations prohibited all members, including leaders, from discussing matters on the party election in the press.