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Mahathir-MCA

INTERESTS OF ALL RACES WILL BE CONSIDERED, SAYS PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will have to consider the interests of all races when studying an MCA Youth's request to review the equity requirement in Malay-Chinese joint ventures.

The Prime Minister said the government respected the MCA Youth's proposal but at the same time it also had to respect the views of other parties.

"We will see. We have to consider the interests of others," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of contracts for processing liquid wastes between Malaysian, Thai and Iranian companies.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on MCA Youth's call for the abolition of the quota system on equity participation if the government wanted to forge genuine joint ventures.

The proposal is contained in a memorandum which Dr Mahathir received from a 51-member MCA Youth delegation at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Department yesterday. -- more

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Mahathir-MCA 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

MCA Youth chief Datuk Chan Kong Choy told reporters today the movement had also suggested that the racial composition of staff and management in such joint ventures be based on merit and requirement.

Asked if it was proper to make such requests when the general election was getting nearer, Dr Mahathir said: "The question of whether it is appropriate or not does not arise."

He said this was the norm of politics as every party would try to fulfil the interests of the community it represented.

Dr Mahathir said he believed MCA Youth was merely expressing its views and did not mean to create problems for the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"There is no problem. We are not going to trade punches...just to talk," he said.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat had told reporters that the 30 per cent quota was still necessary as Bumiputeras had yet to progress well in certain fields. -- Bernama

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