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BN to discuss decision-making system

PRIME MINISTER Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, while maintaining the present Barisan Nasional (BN) decision-making system through consensus is to protect the interests of its component parties, said the BN will discuss the suggestions to review the system.

"We can discuss. Even to decide on this (whether to review the present consensus system), we also need a consensus (from BN components).

"If the consensus said they agreed, then it is okay.

"But I believe that the minority parties will feel they would lose their positions. So we can discuss," he told reporters after presenting the Prime Minister's Quality awards and opening of a two-day national symposium on ISO 9000 standards in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The Prime Minister was asked on the proposal by Indian Progressive Front (IPF) president M.G. Pandithan, urging the BN to review the coalition's system of decision-making through consensus, which the latter said gave component parties a veto power.

(IPF's application to join the BN has not been successful so far due to the MIC objections).

Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who officiated at the opening of IPF fifth annual general assembly on Sunday, had said Umno Youth supports the admittance of IPF in the BN, adding he did not see any reason for the party's bid to be rejected.

He had also said if the consensus system was obstructing the IPF's admittance into the BN, then Umno Youth was ready to ask Dr Mahathir, who is also the BN chairman to review the system.

Asked whether it is appropriate to review the system now, Dr Mahathir said: "If we review, the Indian MIC will lose because they are the minority party."

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