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MAHATHIR WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE PURCHASE OF NANYANG

KUALA LUMPUR, June 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reiterated that he will not interfere in the purchase of Nanyang Press Holdings Bhd by the MCA's investment arm, Huaren Holdings Sdn Bhd.

He said this when asked to comment on the "split" within the MCA over the decision of the party's central committee to approve the purchase of Nanyang Press Holdings Bhd which publishes two Chinese dailies -- the Nanyang Siang Pau and China Press.

"This is a business deal, how can I interfere?" he told reporters at the Royal Malaysian Air Force station in Subang, near here, upon his return from Jakarta after attending the Group of 15 (G15) Summit in Jakarta.

Asked to comment on the split among the MCA leaders over the purchase, which is said to be getting serious, Dr Mahathir said: "I wouldn't know."

"I don't know what's happening, you can't expect me to comment on something that you (reporters) say," he said.

The MCA central committee had approved the purchase on Wednesday with 32 members supporting the move and eight, including party deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek and vice-presidents Datuk Chua Jui Meng and Datuk Chan Kong Choy opposing it.

-- BERNAMA

HRS NHA AZZ JK