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MCA leaders' move is wise, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the decision by MCA leaders to put aside their differences and work for the common benefit of the Barisan Nasional was indeed wise.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, said the recent reconciliatory announcements by the leaders was in the true spirit of the BN.

"It looks like they are now coming together, they want to work together to make sure that we win in the by-election (Indera Kayangan) ... so it is good for Barisan Nasional," he said, adding that he was free to meet any of the leaders.

On his advice pertaining to the dispute in the MCA, Dr Mahathir said: "Obviously we do not want any quarrel in the component parties, because it weakens the party ... even in Umno, I had always advised that we should not be split over these things."

Dr Mahathir was speaking at a Press conference after declaring open the 48th annual general assembly of the People's Progressive Party at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

On Thursday, after months of nasty exchanges between the two "warring" factions within the MCA, deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek pledged to work with party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik. Lim said that he was willing to set aside differences and work with Dr Ling to ensure a BN victory in the by-election.

"The most important thing is for us to get a bigger majority, we will work hard regardless of which MCA candidate is contesting," Lim was quoted as saying.

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