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Mahathir-MCA

MCA'S PROBLEM WILL NOT RESULT IN CREATION OF SPLINTER GROUP, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the internal problem currently faced by the MCA is not that serious to lead to the creation of a splinter group which will set up another party.

"I think it's not as serious. There won't be another splinter group forming another party. They are all loyal to Barisan Nasional (BN)," he told reporters after launching Permodalan Nasional Berhad's gallery at Plaza PNB here.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, was asked on the MCA crisis and whether there is a likelihood that the MCA would end up like Umno in 1987 when a crisis in the BN's dominant party resulted in the creation of a splinter group which later set up another party.

The prime minister said that he had already met several MCA leaders and had been told that there was a little problem in the party.

Asked whether the MCA's internal crisis would affect the BN's preparation for the forthcoming Indera Kayangam state by-election in Perlis, he said: " This is a local problem. We can overcome the problem."

To a suggestion that Keadilan, which is expected to contest the seat, would take advantage by bringing up the MCA crisis in the opposition's election campaign, Dr Mahathir said: "They are like that. They have no issues."

"What can they offer...just undermining others. When contesting, we need to propose ways to improve the situation," he said.

Two days ago, Keadilan vice president Azmin Ali said that the party would highlight the MCA crisis in its election campaign.

The seat fell vacant following the death of MCA's Datuk Khor Liang Tee, 59, of colon cancer last week.

In the last general election, Khor secured 3,825 votes, defeating Keadilan's Ko Chu Liang with a majority of 1,974 votes.

-- BERNAMA

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