

PM: Chinese ultimate losers in MCA bickering

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PUTRAJAYA: The bickering between Team A and Team B in the MCA will lead to the well-being of the Malaysian Chinese community being compromised, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said the dispute might not have an immediate effect on things like the upcoming Ketari by-election but the Chinese community would become the ultimate loser if a solution to the dispute could not be found quickly.

"If the two disputing parties still have the community interest at heart, they should then put aside their differences. Each side must give up something," he said this when meeting senior editors of seven Chinese newspapers at his office here on Monday.

The Prime Minister said that he did not wish to see MCA, the second largest component party of the Barisan Nasional and also Umno's long-time partner, being bogged down by internal problems.

Asked whether he was able to help to avert a head-on collision between the two parties in view of the fact that the two groups did put aside their differences and work together to win the recent Indera Kayang by-election, Dr Mahathir said that based on Umno's experience mediation would be difficult if both sides insisted on finding each other's faults.

He said that in his separate meetings with leaders of the rival groups, leaders of one

group would say the opposite side was wrong.

"Every time when I listened to one side, I felt that the one side was right and the other side was wrong. But every time when I listened to the other side, I felt that the other side was right and the opposite side was wrong. My conclusion, therefore, is that both sides are wrong," he said.

Citing an example, Dr Mahathir said when one side complained to him about the party membership list, he

directed the other side to take the remedial steps.

"I told Team A to give Team B 14 days to inspect the list. Team A however gave them 21 days. But now Team B said there were not 21 days excluding the public holidays," he said.

"What is important is that both sides must stop quarrelling openly. Both sides must make serious attempts to settle the dispute. No one party can get all the things it wants," he said.