

'Fresh moves to make Kurup quit

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KOTA KINABALU: Two days after Bingkor assemblyman Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan recognised Tan Sri Joseph Kurup as the rightful Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah president, fresh moves to pressure Km-up to relinquish his post are mounting.

The pressure from Dr Jeffrey's camp came after it was buoyed by a statement by the Prime Minister that political party matters should be resolved internally and not through the Government or courts.

Datuk Victor Lim, a special adviser to Dr Jeffrey, said yesterday that Kurup should respect Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's view.

"The view of our Prime Minister should be respected by all the same way Dr Jeffrey respected the advice of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," he said.

On Thursday, Dr Mahathir made his stand clear when asked about the claim by MCA Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat that the Registrar of Societies had directed 261 new MCA branches not to take part in the party's elec-

tions.

Lim said Kurup, the state Resource Development Minister, should heed the Prime Minister's view as PBRs delegates had made a clear decision regarding the party leadership during an extraordinary general meeting on Thursday.

"This means the decision of the Registrar of Societies to recognise Kurup as PBRs president is invalid and cannot be accepted as it is a decision of a government body.

"The resolution (on the EGM which endorsed Dr Jeffrey as the party president) was valid."

Dr Jeffrey made a political about-turn in his tussle with Kurup on Thursday when he said he recognised Kurup as president out of respect for Abdullah's advice to accept the registrar's decision on March 22.

The leadership crisis broke out when Kurup and Dr Jeffrey claimed they were the rightful president following the January annual general meeting.

PBRs is the second largest Kadazandusun party in Sabah Barisan Nasional.