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Mahathir-By-election

MCA LEADERS ADVISED TO FORGET DIFFERENCES

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 1 (Bernama) -- The MCA leaders have been advised to forget their differences and squabbling and to concentrate on ensuring victory for the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the forthcoming Indera Kayangan by-election.

Prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today this was the advice he gave the leaders of the two feuding factions who met him separately in Putrajaya yesterday.

"We'll discuss their dispute later," he told reporters after attending the People's Progressive Party's (PPP) New Year open house at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

He was asked to comment on his meetings with MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and a group led by deputy president Datuk Lim Ah Lek at his office in Putrajaya yesterday.

Dr Ling met Dr Mahathir for 40 minutes from 3pm while Lim, party vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Youth leader Datuk Ong Tee Keat and MCA central committee member Datuk Wong Mook Leong met him for nearly an hour from 5pm.

After the meetings, both sides said that they would act as a team in facing the by-election which is being called following the death of Indera Kayangan state assemblyman, Datuk Khor Liang Tee on Dec 19. The by-election date has yet to be fixed.

Dr Mahathir said that at the meetings, the leaders of both groups agreed and assured him that they would cooperate to ensure the success of the BN candidate.

"I was able to resolve it, no problem, they will work together," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that both sides had also said that they would agree with his choice of candidate for the by-election.

"I have not chosen yet, I will announce later...as soon as it is necessary to announce, I will announce," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AT AT JK