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PM: Parties' affairs not subject to court's intervention

SHAH ALAM, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the affairs of political parties were not subject to the Government's, or even the court's intervention.

"We amended the law so that party matters must be decided by the political party and not by the Government and the court," he said when asked about the fate of 261 MCA branches barred from taking part in the party polls.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said: "If that is the case, we have to see why they cannot participate. We may not like it, but the fact is the law says that the affairs of political parties are not subject to the Government or even court's intervention."

He was speaking after launching Favelle Favco Cranes (M) Sdn Bhd and first Malaysian-made crane.

It was reported today that the MCA elections steering committee chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh said the 261 branches in question had been approved by the central committee before Dec 31 last year - the deadline to qualify for the elections.

Ting said under the Societies Act 1966, when there were disputes, the party's decision was final and could not be challenged in court.

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