

BN leaders welcome PM's timely advice

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LEADERS of Barisan Nasional component parties welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice for their parties to set aside differences and work closely together.

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said Dr Mahathir's reminder to MCA and Gerakan to forge closer ties was timely.

Ong, who is Housing and Local Government Minister, said both parties, together with the other 12 partners, were like a big family in the coalition.

He said it was important for leaders of both parties at all levels to intensify their co-operation to face the next general election.

"Let's have a closer rapport. Our enemies are the Opposition

and we should focus our energy on winning the confidence of the voters," he said after the opening of the 32nd Gerakan national delegates' conference.

He was also optimistic that MCA and Gerakan would be able to resolve their differences in time for the next polls.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the BN system of power-sharing had worked very well for the country.

"There were many sceptics who thought that the BN formula would not work. We have prevailed because there is understanding and tolerance among the component parties," said the Works Minister.

Gerakan secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye said everyone

in BN should take heed of Dr Mahathir's advice.

"Dr Mahathir has been consistent in advising BN parties to remain united. He wants us to win big in the general election," Chia said.

MCA deputy president Datuk Chan Kong Choy said Dr Mahathir's advice on closer co-operation between MCA and Gerakan should be put into practice.

"There is no point in us talking. We must prove it with deeds," said Chan, who is Transport Minister.

BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said he was happy that MCA and Gerakan had pledged to work together and improve their relations.