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Abdullah-MIC

STOP THE ACCUSATIONS, ABDULLAH TELLS MIC AND IPF

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today urged the MIC and the Indian Progressive Front (IPF) to stop accusing each other as it will do neither party any good.

"We don't like to see this act of accusing each other. The IPF looks upon the MIC as obstructing IPF (from joining the Barisan Nasional) but if these accusations go on, they will not do both parties any good.

"What's important is that we want both parties to eventually respect each other...that's my opinion," the prime minister told a media conference at his Hari Raya open house at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

"I don't know how to solve the problem... I don't want to make any promises," Abdullah said when asked if he would intervene and resolve the dispute.

The two parties have over the past month been at each other's throat with both sides hurling accusations at each other.

The latest problem between the two Indian-based parties began when IPF president Datuk M.G. Pandithan called on MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu to step down to allow his deputy, Datuk S. Subramaniam, to take over.

This, according to Pandithan, would pave the way for IPF, a splinter party of the MIC, to join the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN), as he saw Samy Vellu as a stumbling block in IPF's quest for a seat on the BN council.

Samy Vellu, not to be outdone, then accused Pandithan of lying to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Yang di-Pertuan Agong about A. Athi Kumanan being the party's deputy president, when in fact he was not, when requesting for an award for him.

The spat has continued with the Tamil vernacular dailies being used by both sides to politically bash each other.

-- BERNAMA

SR RV JK