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BN leaders welcome PM's timely advice

Zubaidah Abu Bakar; Patrick Sennyah; Chow Kum Hor
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.