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Pak Lah: MCA, Gerakan should find ways to resolve squabble

KEPALA BATAS, Fri. - Barisan Nasional deputy chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today urged MCA and Gerakan leaders especially in Penang to stop making statements that will jeopardise relations between the two parties.

He said such an exchange of words between leaders of two component parties in Barisan Nasional was not a good development for the coalition and should therefore be stopped immediately.

"I urge the MCA president (Datuk Seri Ong Ka ting) and Penang Gerakan head (Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon) to have discussions and find ways to stop this."

Abdullah, who is the Deputy Prime Minister, said Ong and Dr Koh had given him assurances that they would settle the differences soon so that they could work together to ensure BN's victory in the next general election.

"I hope there are no more problems or misunderstandings between the MCA and Gerakan as our focus must be on preparing for the general election.

"Koh has briefed me on the problem between both parties and I have advised him to meet Ong to settle the differences," he said after performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the RM4 million Yayasan Budi Penyayang's community centre, known as Pusat Budi Penyayang, near here.

He said this when asked to comment on the series of exchanges between the State MCA and Gerakan with regards to their relationship.

Last Sunday, when opening the MCA general assembly, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad likened MCA and Gerakan as siblings, describing MCA as "abang" and Gerakan as "adik".

"Abang (the elder brother) loves the younger brother (adik) and the younger one should not cause trouble," said Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman.