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Green packaging: Dr Mahathir chatting with Bio Green Bags president and CEO P. Ramaness (right) while his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali takes a closer look at the products made from corn and sugarcane waste yesterday. — Bernama

Fresh polls will hurt MCA further, says Dr M

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PUTRAJAYA: Holding fresh elections will only divide and weaken MCA further because those who lose will not reconcile and settle their differences, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former prime minister said MCA's current problems were similar to those of the other Barisan Nasional component parties like Umno and the MIC. They are caused by members who thought only of their own gains and not of the party's or the nation's interests, he said.

"The party is only the horse on which they ride and they think that by associating themselves with the party they can get something for themselves," he said at a press conference yesterday.

"They are not interested in the country or the party and that is what is causing the split."

Dr Mahathir was commenting on a resolution calling for an *en bloc* resignation of the MCA central committee, adopted by the party's Wanifa wing to resolve MCA's current impasse.

Dr Mahathir had earlier witnessed the signing of an agreement for Return 2 Green Sdn Bhd, a producer of food packaging products, and Bio Green Bags Sdn Bhd, a producer of biodegradable bags, to engage Mega Signet Sdn Bhd as their main marketing and sales partner.

The two producers use waste from corn and sugarcane as raw material and hoped to find ways to reuse waste from padi and tapioca by 2011.

On the calls by some Opposition leaders for Port Klang assemblyman Badrul Hissham Abdullah to resign from his post following his resignation as a PKR member, Dr Mahathir said the assemblyman could stay on as there were no regulations compelling him to resign just because he had quit the party.

"Morally, of course, it is another matter because he was elected on the support from PKR and without it he might have lost, although we do not know this for sure," he said.

On whether Umno should accept Badrul if he decided to join the party given the Opposition's claims that Badrul had not been an effective assemblyman, Dr Mahathir said Umno might accept him if it wanted a higher number of assemblymen in the state.