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Najib's MIC initiative has Dr M's support

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's initiative to resolve the MIC crisis has the support of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir said a third party should mediate the crisis and, rightfully, the job should fall on the shoulders of the prime minister.

"They (MIC leaders) will never reach an agreement among themselves. The best way is to meet them and talk to them decently," he said, drawing on his past experience in dealing with disputes within MIC.

Dr Mahathir, who helmed the government and Barisan Nasional for 22 years, had earlier quipped that MIC had always been embroiled in problems.

He said this after installing a plaque denoting the recreational park at Forest Research Institute Malaysia in Selayang here as a national heritage site.

The MIC crisis came to a boil on Dec 5 last year when the Registrar of Societies (RoS)

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nullified the elections of the party's three vice-presidents, 23 members of the Central Working Committee (CWC) and several branches during the 2013 party elections.

This follows allegations of irregularities and breach of MIC's constitution, as well as the Societies Act.

The RoS recommended re-elections be held for the posts within 90 days.

Rival MIC factions are observing a moratorium pending the prime minister's decision on how to resolve the crisis.

Meanwhile, asked about the differences between him and Najib, and the prime minister's supporters, Dr Mahathir said he was merely taking a stand on policies.

"It is up to them to take it or leave it. If I don't speak out against what's wrong, it would continue. If they jump into the ocean and we jump alongside them, then we are foolish."

Dr Mahathir has been critical of some policies initiated by the current administration.