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+ PM, Palanivel hold closed-door meeting

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday held a closed-door meeting with embattled MIC leader Datuk Seri G. Palanivel yesterday.

The meeting came days after Najib tweeted he would summon Palanivel over the latter's accusation that the prime minister was involved in "pressuring" MIC to reject the party's 2013 polls results.

Datuk S. Sothinathan, who was appointed by Palanivel as party secretary-general, confirmed that the meeting took place. However, Sothinathan said he was not privy to what had been discussed.

It is learnt the meeting was held about 9am at Najib's office in Putrajaya. As at press time, no details of the discussions have been released.

On Sunday, Najib rapped Palanivel for blaming others for MIC's protracted woes.

Other Barisan Nasional leaders, including Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, chided Palanivel for his out-

burst at the Putra World Trade Centre here on Saturday.

Palanivel was also reported to have said Najib had endorsed "fresh polls" for MIC, resulting in the former earning a rebuke from a rival camp led by Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, who said the party had already agreed to a re-election, as instructed by the Registrar of Societies (RoS).

In a related development, Subramaniam said RoS had extended the deadline for MIC to hold its re-election to October. RoS had earlier given the party until next month to hold the elections and resolve its leadership crisis.

"The extension was relayed to us in a letter from RoS.

"It states that the interim central working committee has until October to hold the polls," Subramaniam said after hosting a buka puasa event for the media in Jalan Semarak here.

He said MIC would not drag Najib, who is also BN chairman, into the party's problems.

"We have the capacity to solve it ourselves.

"We had a good meeting on Sunday with 2,700 branch members. It was an open discussion.

"At the end of the day, the party makes the decision. BN will be guided by our decisions."

On Sunday, Subramaniam moved to "sack" Palanivel as party president, claiming the latter had breached Article 91 of MIC's constitution, which stipulated that no party matters could be taken to court without the central working committee's sanction.

Palanivel then filed an application for a judicial review of RoS' order for the party to hold re-elections at all levels.

Earlier yesterday, the High Court set July 10 to hear a bid to stay its verdict upholding RoS' directive for MIC re-elections pending appeal.

Counsel Jadadish Chandra said senior assistant registrar N.D. Arun set the date during case management at the High Court Registry. Jadadish appeared for Palanivel, who is appealing the June 15 decision in favour of RoS.

Last week, High Court judge Datuk Asmabi Mohamad dismissed two applications to set aside RoS' re-election directive over the party's 2013 polls.

