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Najib to decide on Palanivel's Cabinet status

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri G. Palanivel's post as a Cabinet member appears to be hanging in the balance with the Prime Minister's statement that he will make a decision on it soon.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said although he was the head of the Government, he was still bound by the decision of the Registrar of Societies (RoS) on Palanivel's status in MIC.

"I have received a letter (from RoS) and I will make my decision based on the letter," he said.

The crisis in MIC has sunk the party to its deepest level with deputy president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam's faction claiming that Palanivel had lost his membership and that RoS had endorsed this.

The besieged president's faction, however, said it had its own interpretation of the party constitution and that RoS had only taken note of

the rival group's claims.

When asked if it was strange for Palanivel to remain in the Cabinet when RoS had agreed that he was no longer an MIC member, the Prime Minister said: "It will be decided soon. I don't want to make any decision in a rush as I would be accused of interfering in the internal affairs of MIC.

"I want the party itself to determine its leadership. I can make decisions afterwards."

Earlier this year, both Palanivel and Dr Subramaniam snubbed Barisan Nasional's proposal to have a neutral party administer MIC until elections are held.

Both groups said they did not want Barisan to interfere in party affairs.

Asked whether he was mulling a possible Cabinet reshuffle due to the problems in MIC, Najib just smiled and asked: "Why don't you just wait?"