

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	30 JAN 2015

Rivals agree to PM's call for moratorium

FINAL SOLUTION: Najib to mediate in crisis

**ADRIAN LAI
AND NOEL ACHARIAM**
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

RIVAL MIC factions have agreed to a moratorium as advised by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to seek a permanent solution to MIC's leadership crisis.

Party president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel said he and his deputy, Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, had agreed to observe the moratorium.

"I agreed to the moratorium to allow both sides to discuss with the prime minister, as chairman of Barisan Nasional, to find the best

way forward to resolve the crisis," he said in a statement.

Palanivel said he and his deputy would "stand down" as they did not want the crisis to get worse.

"We will meet and decide on the next course of action that will satisfy all quarters as soon as possible."

During a press conference later, Dr Subramaniam said the moratorium was part of Najib's plan to seek a final solution to MIC's problems.

"This morning, the prime minister contacted me and advised that all parties involved in the MIC crisis observe a moratorium to allow him to mediate and resolve the crisis."

He added that he had conveyed Najib's message to the MIC's interim

council of division leaders, the group of complainants who lodged a report with the Registrar of Societies (RoS) over irregularities in the party's 2013 elections, and the leaders of MIC's Youth, Wanita, Puteri and Putera wings.

Dr Subramaniam said all quarters in MIC had agreed to observe the moratorium for a "reasonable" period of time to enable Najib to help resolve the crisis.

He said all parties respected Najib's intentions to mediate and solve the party's internal problems.

"The prime minister is very well aware of the intensity of the issue at the grassroots and will realise the need for immediate and urgent action."

Dr Subramaniam said he had informed the prime minister of the need to have the party's previous Central Working Committee (CWC) board (2009-2013) manage MIC in the interim until its re-election issue was resolved.

"I have stressed to the prime minister the need to resolve the issue of who runs MIC in the interim period. The RoS has clearly stated that the CWC elected in December 2013 is not legitimate."

"The RoS had also stated that it cannot recognise any appointment to specific posts, like the secretary-general, until the election issue is resolved."

Dr Subramaniam said resolving the issue of MIC's interim administration would be a key factor in determining the "sanctity" and effectiveness of the moratorium.

"The 90 division leaders, who met on Saturday, have resolved that the CWC of 2009 to 2013 should administer the party in the interim."



MIC deputy president **Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam** (seated, right) and vice-president **Datuk M. Saravanan** (left) at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday on problems plaguing the party. Pic by Sairien Nafis

