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Najib and his deputy step in to end MIC row

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BN top guns to meet with warring factions as situation gets 'out of hand'

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KUALA LUMPUR: With the situation in MIC getting out of hand, Barisan chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin have been forced to intervene.

Both leaders will meet with the warring factions in MIC soon to help resolve the matter for the good of the party and to protect the image of Barisan, said Muhyiddin.

He said the decision had to be taken because MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel seemed to be losing focus.

So, he said, it had been decided that he and Najib would intervene for the good of the party and also Barisan.

"I am not making any criticism, but the situation has now caused many problems and things are getting out of hand.

"Most shockingly, I heard there were also threats made against one another and this does not reflect well for the image of the party," he said after launching the new Bahasa Melayu Institute of Teacher Education here yesterday.

He said the Barisan leadership took the matter seriously as the crisis was not only hurting the party but also damaging to Barisan.

"We will do whatever is necessary to help MIC to return to normal and be an important partner in Barisan," he said.

Muhyiddin said he had discussed the matter with Najib and a meeting with MIC top Leadership would be held soon to decide on the next course of action.

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-TAN SRIMUHYIDDIN YASSIN

"With the way things are happening, if we do not step in, there may be no solution to the problem," he added.

Barisan, said Muhyiddin, would look into the recommendations made by the Registrar of Societies (RoS) and take measures that were within the party's constitution.

He also urged MIC members to calm down, put aside their differences and work with each other for the good of the party.

In PUTRAJAYA, Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said he would meet Palanivel and his deputy Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam along with the RoS next week in a bid to settle the MIC crisis.

"We will have the meeting early next week," he said after a working visit to the National Registration Department headquarters here yesterday.

He added that he already had a series of discussions with the RoS and wanted the public to know that they understood the crisis in MIC.

"I will assist RoS on this matter and any action to be taken will be based on the Societies Act 1966 and MIC's constitution," he said.