

DPM Feels MIC Crisis Should Be Resolved Amicably Without Going To Court
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PUTRAJAYA, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- The MIC crisis should be resolved amicably without dragging the matter to court as it would only complicate the situation, said Barisan Nasional (BN) deputy chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin, who is the deputy prime minister, said he did not think that the problem would be resolved by taking it to court though it was any individual's right to do so.

MIC Central Working Committee (CWC) member K. Ramalingam yesterday applied for a judicial review, seeking the Registrar of Societies (RoS) and its director-general, Mohammad Razin Abdullah, to retract the RoS directives sent to the party for the holding of re-elections.

Muhyiddin said it was preferable for the factions to meet again if they were unhappy with the decisions arrived at.

"The point is there must be sincerity, then the issue can be resolved in the best way possible," he told reporters who had approached him after he had launched the Mind Transformation Plan 'Towards a Clean, Beautiful and Prosperous Nation' here.

The MIC crisis erupted due to differences of opinion after the RoS nullified the November 2013 elections for the three posts of vice-president and 23 CWC posts following complaints of irregularities.

The RoS, in a letter dated Dec 5, 2014, instructed MIC to hold re-elections for these posts within 90 days.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said on Feb 9 that the Registrar of Societies (RoS), which came under the jurisdiction of his ministry, had agreed that MIC hold re-elections for all posts between April and July this year to avoid being de-registered.

On Feb 14, MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel asked the RoS to withdraw all its instructions to the party, claiming that they went contrary to the Societies Act and party constitution, and threatened to take the RoS to court.

On Feb 18, following a meeting among Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Muhyiddin, Palanivel, MIC deputy president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, BN secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and Ahmad Zahid, Tengku Adnan said in a statement that Palanivel would call a meeting of the 2009 CWC to set up an independent elections committee.

Muhyiddin said the BN wanted MIC to regain its strength because the Indian community banked its hopes on the party to address its grievances.

He said it would be a loss for the BN if the Indian community distanced itself from the coalition because it thought that MIC was weak.

"Whatever the case may be, we can only give advice. It is left to them (MIC leaders) to decide if they feel they can resolve it (the crisis) in their own way. It is their right to do what they want," he said.

"I leave it to the MIC leaders. They are intelligent, highly qualified and have much experience. If they can resolve it (the crisis) in their own way, so be it," he said.

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