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MIC leaders agree on fresh polls after meeting

PUTRAJAYA: MIC leaders met with Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday and reached an agreement on re-elections to resolve the party crisis.

Najib said in a statement that he had met MIC president Datuk Seri G Palanivel and deputy president Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam to discuss the party's internal problem, *Bernama* reported.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister and BN deputy chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Federal Territories Minister and BN secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

"MIC will convey the decision to the Registrar of Societies (RoS) so that the appropriate action can be taken to carry out the party re-elections," Najib said.

He also said the details of the re-elections will be announced after the party receives a letter from the RoS.

Differences of opinion had emerged in the MIC following an order on Dec 5 last year from the RoS for the party to hold fresh elections for the three posts of vice-president and 23 posts in the central working committee within 90 days due to irregularities in the elections held at the party general assembly in Melaka on Nov 30, 2013.

Earlier yesterday, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the MIC crisis needed to be tackled with the help of a third party.

"MIC always has problems. I think their problems should be resolved with the help of people outside MIC. If it's to be done among themselves, they will never reach

an agreement ... this had happened before."

Dr Mahathir said this when asked by reporters to comment on the MIC crisis after placing a plaque at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia

to denote it as a national heritage.

On whether he would agree if asked to be a mediator, Dr Mahathir said: "I'm not a politician anymore. I'm only a critic."

Last week, Muhyiddin said the coalition's top leadership would help MIC to resolve its crisis and regain strength.

The deputy prime minister said he had discussed the matter last Wednesday with Najib.

Also last week, *The Malaysian Insider* reported that Palanivel and his deputy Subramaniam had agreed on a moratorium to discuss the current party crisis with Najib to prevent it from escalating.