KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the MIC crisis needed be tackled with the help of a third party. He said the Barisan Nasional component party's leaders would not reach a consensus if the crisis were to be settled among themselves.

"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." Mahathir said this when asked by reporters to comment on the MIC crisis after placing a plaque at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia as a national heritage, here yesterday.

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." He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was suitable to be mediator in resolving the MIC crisis.

The internal crisis came about after the Registrar of Societies (RoS) declared as null and void the election for the party's three vice-president posts and 23 Central Working Committee (CWC) seats at the MIC general assembly in Melaka in November 2013.

In its letter dated Dec 5, 2014, RoS ordered MIC to hold re-elections for these posts within 90 days. - Bernama