

# PM: PROVE CLAIMS OF MALAY CONVERSIONS

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KUANTAN, Mon — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned today that allegations about mass conversions by Malays to Christianity could lead to unrest between Muslims and Christians.

The people should have proof before making such claims, he said and added that the Press should not entertain such claims if they could not be confirmed.

The Prime Minister said the Islamic Centre had been directed to provide proof for similar allegations which it had made.

Dr Mahathir said one such allegation which could arouse unhappiness among Muslims and lead to trouble was the claim that 66,000 Malays, including many in Felda schemes, had converted to Christianity. (PAS chief Haji Yusof Rawa made the claim last week).

"There have been a lot of stories of Muslims leaving the faith for Christianity. Such stories are very dangerous," he said in response to questions during a Press conference this morning at the end of a three-day visit to the State.

"Where are these 66,000 people? If they have become Christians, I wish to meet them.

"If reporters know (of such cases), they can inform us. But if they don't know, they should not accept such stories because it is dangerous," he added.

He said the Muslims who had left the faith so far were converts whose marriages with Muslims had ended in divorce.

Dr Mahathir said during his visit, he was

able to have a close look at the Felda refinery complex in Tanjung Gelang, the tourism facilities and development plans in Pulau Tioman, as well as the progress of Felda Malaysia.

He was satisfied with the performance of the ferry service even though it had sustained heavy losses.

He said the Government would study several plans drawn up to improve the service.

On his meetings with State Barisan Nasional and Umno leaders, Dr Mahathir said the component parties co-operated closely and there were no problems.

He also said the Pahang Umno was strong and united and he was not "worried" about its ability to carry on the party's struggle.