

# PM: No need for meeting with Lim

ALOR STAR, Sun. -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that any meeting with DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang to discuss the opposition party's position on Islam is meaningless because Lim has never been rational in discussing the issue.

"There is no need for a discussion ... he is only playing on religious and racial sentiments," he told reporters when asked to comment on Lim's statement today that he would like to meet the Prime Minister to discuss how Malaysians could learn to respect religions and family sensitivities.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali arrived at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport here to attend a *kenduri* in Titi Gajah and the wedding of Kedah Menteri Besar's son in Mentakoon tonight.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister, in his speech at the opening of the 39th MCA general assembly said the DAP, while opposing Chinese converting to Islam,

was not concerned when Chinese became Christians.

He said its opposition was part of the attitude of the DAP leaders who dislike Islam and the Malays.

He said it was sufficient for Lim to write a letter to him.

"There is no need for a meeting because the issue is clear ... never hear of him complaining about Chinese renouncing Buddhism.

"But if the Chinese embraces Islam, he goes after them and instigates them to renounce Islam. Everybody knows this ... this is not the first time.

"We are not furious because the Chinese embrace Christianity, but they (the DAP) must be fair. Their action must not be one-sided."

Dr Mahathir said that until today he had not heard Lim's opinion on the suffering of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Is it all right for Bosnian Muslims to be oppressed? If it involves the non-Muslims, it will become an issue and

we are very sad about this."

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on the Supreme Court's decision on Aug 5 to allow Asian Rare Earth's application to suspend an Ipoh High Court's order to cease operations.

He said the court's ruling must be respected.

He said that according to the judicial system, every party had the right to appeal to the Supreme Court if it is not satisfied with the decision of the High Court.

On the findings of experts on the safety of ARE's operations, he said many experts had conducted studies at the site and found that the plant was safe.

"If the experts say it is safe, we cannot say that their findings are wrong because we are not experts."

He said the government would abide by the findings of the experts.

"However, we do not accept the views of experts who are known for their anti-pollution stance and take sides in their studies."