

US may be biased, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he is curious to know the actual reasons for America's apprehension on the formation of the East Asia Economic Caucus.

"I fear that behind all this is a bias and negative attitude towards us," he said at a Press conference after opening the Gerakan general assembly here.

He was asked to comment on a statement by US Assistant Secretary of State for Asia and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord here yesterday that the US needed more details about the EAEC before committing itself.

Dr Mahathir said Asean had made it clear that the EAEC would not become a trade bloc like the North American Free Trade

Agreement (Nafta).

"I want to know what is it that is causing the apprehension.

"Is it because we are Asians? Or that we abuse human rights? We have not been told," he said.

Asked whether a team would be despatched to explain more about the EAEC to US leaders, Dr Mahathir said: "If they want, we can send a team from Asean."