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PM: Chang will help deal with Chinese matters

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the appointment of 51-year old lawyer Matthias Chang Wen Chieh as his political secretary is to help him deal in matters pertaining the Chinese community.

He said he had chosen a Chinese as one of his political secretaries because the Chinese represented about 26 per cent of Malaysia's population.

"I think a Chinese political secretary will be able to serve me where the Chinese are concerned," he told a news conference after delivering a keynote address at the 10th World Economic Development Congress at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

He was asked to comment on Chang's swearing-in as his political secretary earlier today, making the lawyer the first non-Malay political secretary to the Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir already has two Malay political secretaries.

Chang took his oath of office and oath of secrecy before Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya.

Also sworn in today before the Prime Minister was Reezal Merican Naina Merican, 28, who was appointed Political Secretary to the Minister of Women and Family Development Datuk Shahrizat Jalil.

Reezal, who holds a degree in Arabic and Literature from the International Islamic University of Malaysia, is an executive committee member of the Kepala Batas Umno Youth division.