

# ***Don't court danger, Fong tells Chinese***

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SHAH ALAM: The Chinese community has only one choice - to support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's perseverance in maintaining a multiracial Malaysia because voting in the wrong leadership can mean the end of freedom, said MCA vice-president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn.

"Dr Mahathir had earlier given a warning about a certain group of people who used terrorist ways to try to wrestle power and rule the country.

"He was proven right. The Sept 11 terrorist attack in New York has confirmed how terrorists are willing to sacrifice innocent lives to achieve their ambition," said Dr Fong on Saturday night.

He added that the Chinese community could not afford to play with fire and give such groups any chance to succeed in this country.

Dr Fong said the community must vigilantly guard their freedom to practice their mother tongue, culture, tradition and way of life.

"We can do this through our voting right every five years. We must stay united and give our support to Dr Mahathir and enable him to have the

solid backing to maintain a multiracial Malaysia," he said at the mid-autumn festival in Kota Kemuning here.

The event was organised by the Kota Kemuning MCA branch. Also present were Shah Alam Barisan Nasional chief Datuk Salamon Selamat, Kota Raja state assemblyman G. Kamala and Shah Alam MCA division chief Thong Young Koon.

Dr Fong added that the Chinese community's 26% support, although not a big number, played a crucial role in determining the country's leadership.

He said the community must also be wary of opposition parties, especially PAS, which had declared its intention to set up an Islamic state modelled after its own definition.

"Looking at the alternative, we have no choice but to support the leadership of Dr Mahathir, if we want to continue enjoying lantern festivals and celebrate other auspicious occasions 10, 50 and even a hundred years from now," he said.

Dr Fong also called on the community to equip itself to face the information age.