

# PM allays fears among Chinese

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad allayed fears among the Chinese community that there is no place and freedom in Malaysia, as an Islamic nation, for non-Muslims.

"I do hope that the Chinese community will cease to worry about the statement that Malaysia is an Islamic country.

"Please do not go around saying that the Government is going to do something to deprive the Chinese community of their rights," he said

when addressing Chinese businessmen at a dinner hosted by the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACC-CIM) at Mutiara Hotel here.

He said it was all right for the non-Muslims to regard Malaysia as a secular state because the Government had no intention to curtail or obstruct the Chinese community's rights.

"Your rights will remain your rights," he said, adding that he needed to explain the matter so as not to create unrest and suspicion among

the non-Muslims.

Dr Mahathir reminded the Chinese not to listen to those who wanted to make an issue out of the statement, particularly DAP that was now attacking MCA and Gerakan.

"I hope you will ignore them. They are trying to create a gap between Umno and parties affiliated to it."

Present at the function were ACCCIM president Tan Sri Lim Guan Teik, MCA president Datuk Seri Ling Liong Sik and Gerakan president Datuk Seri Lim Kheng Yaik.