

# 'We are with you'

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## 200 Chinese groups thank Mahathir for resolving MCA crisis

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**PETALING JAYA:** Chinese community and business leaders support the prime minister's peace and stability formula to end the MCA crisis.

About 200 leaders and members of Chinese guilds and associations expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday for stepping in to mend the rift.

Dismissing talk that the Chinese community objected to the prime minister's, particularly Umno's, interference in MCA affairs, they said Mahathir and Umno were "just helping a friend".

The group's spokesman, Leong A. Sam, said it is Mahathir's responsibility as Barisan Nasional chairman to ensure all component parties are strong and united.

"We (the ordinary Chinese) do not view the peace formula as an interference by Umno and we (the silent majority) are of the opinion that any such suggestion is mischievous and dangerous.

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"We want the prime minister to know that he is not alone in this struggle," he told a press conference which was attended by leaders from various associations.

Leong, who is adviser to the Guan Yin Seberang Prai Association, said the groups are not political or affiliated to any political party. The guilds and associations have about 1.5 million members.

"We just want to see a family in peace. With the end of the crisis, we are confident that the MCA leadership and its members can fully concentrate on serving the Chinese community," he added.

Leong also said the guilds and associations will seek an appointment with Mahathir to hand over a memorandum expressing their support. They also want to give him a Chinese calligraphy scroll as token of the community's appreciation.

Last month, the MCA's feuding factions led by party chief Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik (Team A) and his deputy Datuk Lim Ah Lek (Team B) sought Mahathir's help to intervene in the crisis.