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Republic told not to use insulting terms

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DON'T call Malaysia Ma Guo or "Country of the horses", a Sin Chew reader told Singapore yesterday. Referring to the neighbour's preference for the Mandarin term, he felt it was derogatory as it implied Malaysia was an "animal" country.

In his strongly-worded letter, the reader said the republic should refrain from using insulting terms or impolite words when referring to Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung's call for 7,500 Chinese organisations in Malaysia to merge continued to receive the support of the community.

The Nanyang Siang Pau yesterday said Chinese organisations should try to reposition themselves in meeting the needs of the community.

Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's latest directive ordering the Employees Provident Fund to investigate the fraudulent withdrawal of unclaimed money, was the subject of articles in the China Press and Oriental Daily News yesterday.

The China Press supported Abdullah's position.

The Oriental Daily News felt his statement was part of his desire to continue Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's policy of improving the image and efficiency of the country's administration.