

**Debate On Whether Malaysia A Secular Country Or Not Neither Necessary Nor Beneficial - Muhyiddin Bernama**  
**October 23, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said debating whether Malaysia is a secular country or not is neither necessary or beneficial because the government had practised the principles enshrined in the Constitution since 55 years ago.

"The articles in the constitution like Islam is the religion of the federation and other religions can be practised freely are very clear, no need to redefine whether we are secular or not.

"We hold to what is stated in the Constitution, it is up to the people to make their own conclusions so that there will be no unproductive polemics," he told reporters after closing the Education Management Convention and Excellent Principal Credentials Presentation Ceremony at a leading hotel here Tuesday.

He added that arguing whether Malaysia was a secular country or not brought no benefit because the prime concern was that Malaysia remained a peaceful and progressive country.

Yesterday, at the Dewan Rakyat, Member of Parliament John Fernandez (DAP-Seremban) had asked Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz to clarify whether Malaysia was a secular state or not.

Mohamed Nazri in his reply had stated that nowhere in the Constitution it was stated that Malaysia is a secular state.

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