

 Thu, August 20, 2009 - GEORGE TOWN: The proposal by the Cabinet to do away with the need to state ethnic origin in official forms got a strong nod of approval from various individuals and communities.

Penang Mental Health Association president Datuk Mary Ritchie said this would close the racial divide and give Malaysians ♦ regardless of their origin ♦ a sense of belonging to the country they were born in.

Ritchie, whose late father was a Burmese and her mother a Thai Chinese, was married to her late husband who was of mixed Scottish, Thai and Chinese parentage.

♦ All these years, I consider myself a true Malaysian as I was born and grew up here.

♦ The move is good as there will be no more feeling of being different and we will all be truly Malaysian, ♦ she added.

Penang State Chinese Association president Datuk Seri Khoo Keat Siew said the proposal was an appropriate move to create national unity.

♦ It ♦s long overdue, timely and definitely in line with the Government ♦s concept of 1Malaysia, ♦ he said.

Housewife Christine Pedley, 60, a Eurasian from Tanjung Bungah, said the move reflected the good intentions of the Government to promote the 1Malaysia concept.

♦ We are all Malaysians and we voted the Government in like everybody else, so why should there be a discrimination of ethnic origin on official forms?

♦ I remember having to fill in this section when I used to travel a lot last time. It used to make me feel like I ♦m not Malaysian, ♦ she said.

Shipping executive Patrick Henry, 52, also a Eurasian, said the proposal, if approved, would create a sense of belonging and togetherness among Malaysians.