

# Muslims told: Do not stray from Quran teachings

N.S.T. 15 SEP 1976

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad warned Umno members today against the spread of an independent interpretation of Islam which is dangerous to the religion, the Malays and the country.

He said the interpretation was not based on the religion and its teachings but was born of a competition among Muslims in this country and other Islamic nations and societies.

"This modern interpretation, according to whims and fancies, is dangerous because the consequences are disunity, feuding, confusion and weakness for Muslims and their nations."

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir was opening the Umno Youth and the Wanita Umno general assemblies at the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka here.

## Own ways

He said the desire of some to show how special and strong their dakwah or missionary work had been had reached the stage where they "now reject the teachings of the Quran which do not suit them. They give priority to Quranic text and the sayings and the ways of the Prophet which they interpret in their own ways."

"This brings about groups who wish to find an easy way to heaven through criminal activities in the deep of night."

He cautioned that if this was not checked, there would be other groups who wished to show that for Islam, they were prepared to carry out even more drastic deeds — possibly including murder.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir, who is also Umno vice-president, said these developments were relevant to Umno members.

"Today, there are already many Umno members who are interested not only in carrying out Islamic commandments but in displays of holiness.

# 'We must— hold fast to true teachings'

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"There are our members who also want to compete to appear more 'Islamic' than others."

He added: "This is a dangerous trend, politically dangerous to us, and dangerous to Islam itself and to all the Malays.

"It will definitely lead to disunity among the Malays; it will weaken us because we will devote our energies to showing off how very 'Islamic' we are and neglect other endeavours — like the promotion of brotherhood among Muslims, ... like working hard, earning an honest living to improve our economic lot, ... like spreading the teachings of Islam."

Umno, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir added, was a responsible party. "We must ensure that Islam is not infected by a pandering to passions which will destroy us and the Muslims in our country. We must hold fast to the true teachings of Islam."