

Mahathir: Islamic unity vital

By NAZAR ABDUL

ALOR STAR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Islamic countries must unite in the spirit of Muslim brotherhood in tackling various problems faced by Muslims throughout the world, particularly the Israeli oppression of Palestinians.

"Islamic unity is vital in solving this problem effectively," he said when opening the Nuzul Quran ceremony at Kampung Kodrang Lama, 44 km. from here, last night.

The Prime Minister said Islamic nations should be united in supporting and assisting their Palestinian brothers who badly needed sympathy and assistance.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was sad to see that the Islamic Foreign Ministers' meeting to discuss the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was not convened due to a lack of quorum.

"It is very sad indeed that some Islamic countries are not interested to attend the meeting which is aimed at solving the problem," he said.

He also regretted that many Muslims in Islamic countries to-

day had not followed the truly Islamic way of life.

"There is no unity, co-operation and spirit of brotherhood among them," he said.

The Prime Minister added that many had also forgotten their Islamic responsibilities towards their fellow brothers who were suffering from Israeli oppression.

He said although there were many rich Islamic countries in the world, many were only keen in safeguarding their own interests.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir feared that such a situation might occur in Malaysia if Muslims here did not pursue a truly Islamic way of life.

He regretted that there were Muslims in this country who were out to create disunity and confusion among Muslims only for their own political interest.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the Government's move in buying shares of several foreign-owned companies was for the good of the people.

He said the Government was also providing several opportunities for the people to improve their standard of living so that they would be prepared to face bigger challenges.