

DON'T USE MOSQUES FOR DEBATES: DR M

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ALORSTAR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded the people today that the mosque should not be used as a platform for ideological debates which would affect the unity of Muslims. "It is high time Muslims closed ranks and remained united. "If we continue to be divided, we will be weakened and our position and power will be threatened," he told about 1,500 people who turned up for Hari Raya Haji prayers at a new \$3 million mosque in Jitra near here.

He added that it was against the teachings of Islam to stir up emotions and create conflicts while praying in the mosque.

Dr Mahathir said that apart from prayers, the mosque should be used as a centre for discussion to promote understanding and goodwill.

He also said that Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin had personally donated about \$1

million towards the cost of the mosque. He said the rest of the money came from well-wishers and that the Government had also chipped in.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, who held open house at their residence at Titi Gajah near here, were later given an audience by the Sultan and Sultanah of Kedah.

The Sultan and Raja Muda of Kedah had joined Muslims at prayers at Masjid Zahir earlier.

The Sultanah performed her prayers at Balai Besar.

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Yang di-Pertua Negri Tun Haji Mohammad Adnan Robert joined thousands of Muslims in prayers at the State mosque.

Also present were Muslim State Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps.

In Ipoh, the Sultan of Perak joined Muslims at Hari Raya prayers at the State mosque.

In Kota Baru, the Sultan and Raja Perempuan of Kelantan, performed Prayers at Masjid Muhanadi.

Also present were Mentri Besar Datuk Haji Mohamed Yaacob and State Assembly Speaker Haji Abdul Aziz Talib.

In Sri Menanti, the Yang di-Pertuan Besar and the Tengku Ampuan of Negri Sembilan attended prayers at the Masjid Tuanku Munawir together with several members of the royal family and more than 500 Muslims.

The royal couple later visited the royal mausoleum before holding a reception at Istana Besar.

Mentri Besar Datuk Mohamed Isa Datuk Abdulsamad was among dignitaries who held open house after the Prayers.

In Kuching, Sarawak Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife Datin Patinggi Laila Taib joined hundreds of Muslims at prayers at the State mosque.