

DEATH WORSHIPPERS TOLD: STICK TO QURAN

KOTA BARU, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that there are certain quarters who claim that death of Muslims in the course of fighting one another is good in Islam.

"They have strayed so far from the teachings of Islam that they have to recourse to death to rekindle their spirit," the Prime Minister and Umno president told 10,000 people who turned up to greet him at the Ismail Petra Airport here.

"They offer prayers for the person who has died in such circumstances, as if he is no longer a human being but some kind of object to be worshipped to rouse their spirit," he said.

This was wrong from the aspect of Islam and it was the responsibility of Umno members to bring such people back to the right path, to the Quran and to Islam.

They should leave behind what was un-Islamic and return to the teachings of the

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holy Quran.

Dr Mahathir, who is here on a two-day visit, said the people who had died in the Iran-Iraq war could not be said to have died a holy death because they did not fight to defend Islam against the enemy.

The conflict, which resulted in the death of about 800,000 people, could have been settled through consultations, he added.

He said Umno did not reject PAS but was ready to

hold discussions and cooperate with the party if it really upheld Islamic teachings.

"PAS was not too long ago accepted in the Alliance and this showed that Umno is not greedy for power. However, the party was not sincere and withdrew of its own accord," he said.

As a champion of Islam and the nation, Umno would make efforts to "open their eyes" so that they would realise the true teachings of

Islam and abandon their leaders who made use of religion to win support.

"Umno members must continue with their struggle so that there will no longer be people who are confused over what is right and what is wrong in Islam," Dr Mahathir said.

Though Umno had wide powers, it would rule the country fairly in line with Islamic teachings.