

PM criticises Muslim group

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By SYED

ABU BAKAR

KOTA BARU, Wed. — The Prime Minister today criticised a certain group of Muslims in the country who revered Muslims who died fighting other Muslims.

He said this group regarded Muslims who died fighting other Muslims as extraordinary.

Datuk Seri Dr Ma-

hathir said this group had refused to resolve political problems through discussions and was spreading its belief to other Muslims.

Dr Mahathir stressed that this belief is against Islamic teachings.

Speaking to about 10,000 people who turned out to welcome him at Sultan Ismail Petra airport here, he called on

Umno members to persuade these wayward Muslims to return to the "right path".

The Prime Minister arrived in an executive jet shortly after 5pm, accompanied by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and other VIPs.

They were received by Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Mohamad Yaakob, Deputy Menteri Besar Haji Ariffin Said and other VIPs.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Umno president, inspected a guard of honour mounted by Umno Youth and Wanita Umno members.

The Prime Minister said that although Umno was powerful, the party and the other Barisan Nasional members had administered the country justly.

He called on all Muslims in the country to unite.

"It is meaningless to regard ourselves as brothers if we do not unite," he said.

He added that Muslims in two Muslim countries were fighting a war in which thousands were being killed.

He said their deaths were pointless because they were Muslims who

fought among themselves although their political problems could be solved through discussions.

He said Umno was prepared to resolve local political problems with a fanatical Muslim group in the country but this gesture had been rejected by the group.

Instead, this group was spreading its belief that it was better to die fighting.

Earlier, the Menteri Besar called on Umno members and Muslims in the State to beware of their "enemies" who were out to destroy Muslim unity.

He said the Barisan Nasional would not allow the Opposition parties to win a single seat in the State in the coming elections.