

PM to Muslims: Be guided by moderation

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TANAH MERAH, Thurs. — The Prime Minister today called on Muslims in the country to be guided by moderation even when they are engaged in activities aimed at spreading their faith.

He said this was important in the interest of harmony among the various races.

Muslims, especially those in Umno, should remember that Malaysia is a multi-racial country and that there is a constant need to maintain harmony among the people.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno and the Muslims in the country possessed considerable power but they should not abuse it as would a certain group should they come to power.

Speaking at the opening of the \$1.2 million

Tanah Merah Umno building, Dr Mahathir, who is also the Umno president, said Umno and the Muslims must ponder carefully before taking any action to avoid offending the other races.

He stressed that the Muslims in the country must practise moderation as Prophet Muhammad did when he was spreading Islam in Mecca and later in Medina.

Loans

This is the only way to ensure success.

He reminded Umno members that they had an important role to play — to safeguard the position of the Malays and Islam — and should be fully supported on this.

He said the Malays had united solidly through the struggles of Umno which led to independence, but this unity had been affected by the acti-

vities of a group which was led by selfish leaders.

Describing Pas as an opportunistic party, Dr Mahathir said the party leaders had called Umno members *kafir* although they were not in position to do so.

Pas leaders do not have extra-ordinary power to enable them to brand Muslims as *kafir*.

The Umno president described Pas leaders as "greedy" and "100 per cent worldly".

They took loans from financial institutions and are involved in paying interest.

The Prime Minister said Pas had also poisoned the minds of Malaysian students abroad and this had resulted in the students being unable to concentrate on their studies.

Referring to the Tanah Merah Umno building, he

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said Umno members should not be satisfied with the putting up of such buildings but should continue to struggle to maintain the independence of the Malays and Islam.

"We must defend the position of the Malays, Islam and the position of the other races in the country."

He said the Malays must progress rapidly and be on par with other races.