

PM warns of anti-unity Raya cards

By ROHAIZAD RAHIM

ter breaking fast with Umno leaders and residents of the Bukit Tangga Felda scheme in Changloon, 48km from here, last night.

Dr Mahathir urged the people to be wary of such activities.

Unleashed

"These groups have twisted the interpretation of the religious verses to accommodate their own interests," he said.

Nationalism was not un-Islamic, said the Prime Minister.

"In fact the spirit of nationalism is essential to us in defending our race, country and religion.

"Other Muslims cannot help us if we are attacked. We have to defend our-

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ALOR STAR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised "certain groups of people" who used Hari Raya greeting cards as a medium to erode the spirit of nationalism among the people.

He was disappointed that Hari Raya, which had always symbolised the unity of the Muslims, should be used to disunite them.

Dr Mahathir said the greeting cards carried messages which claim that nationalism was against Islam and carried certain religious verses to "substantiate" these claims.

He said cards with such messages were being distributed to Muslims throughout the country.

The Prime Minister was speaking af-

selves and this can be achieved if there is a spirit of nationalism among the people.

"Nationalism has not only gained independence for us but also put us where we are today. I am disappointed with those who are against the spirit of nationalism."

History, he said, had shown that the wave of nationalism unleashed by leaders fighting for independence had defended the sovereignty of Islam.

As an example of the spirit of nationalism being harnessed for the cause of Islam, he cited the struggle of the people of Afghanistan against the Barbrak Karmal regime, which was being propped up by the Soviet Union.

Also present at the ceremony were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Menteri Besar Datuk Paduka Haji Osman Aroff, State exco members Haji Hanafi Ramli and Encik Zakaria Said and their wives.