

# MAHATHIR TO MUSLIMS: NO FIGHTING

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S.TOR

KUANTAN, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called on all Muslims in the country to stop fighting among themselves "as disunity will not benefit anyone."

He said the war between two Islamic countries (Iran and Iraq) should be a lesson for all Muslims.

"Thousands have died in vain in this war which does not benefit the Muslims," he added.

The Prime Minister, who is on a two-day official visit to Pahang, was speaking to about 25,000 people, mostly Felda settlers, at Bandar Pusat Jenka, about 140km from here.

In an apparent reference to PAS, which he did not name, he said that a certain group of people had been branding those who did not join their party as *kafirs* (infidels).

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president and Barisan Nasional chairman, said that going by this group's own interpretation, they themselves were *kafirs*.

"In olden days, that party did not exist and as such their ancestors did not join the party.

"According to their interpretation, their forefathers were therefore *kafirs*," he said.

He stressed that Umno would never resort to calling fellow Muslims *kafirs* be-

cause this was prohibited by Islam.

The Prime Minister also rapped critics of Felda and said that the success of the land development schemes had benefitted settlers.

He said that although Felda's success has become a reality, there were still allegations that the settlers were "slaves of the Government."

Dr Mahathir pointed out that there were about 9,000 families waiting to become settlers in Felda schemes.

"If Felda is meant to enslave the people, why are there so many people waiting to join the scheme?" he asked.

Earlier, representatives of Felda settlers in the State pledged their full support to the Government.

The Prime Minister later unveiled a plaque to mark the foundation stone laying ceremony for a Mara Institute of Technology (ITM) campus in Bandar Pusat Jengka.

He was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah.

Also present were Mentri Besar Datuk Mohamed Najib Tun Razak, State Exco members, Land and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Adib Adam, Minister in Prime Minister's Department Datuk Khalil Yaakub, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Chan Siang Sun and Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Tan Tiong Hong.