

Dr M: Umno has always worked for Muslim unity

By MARIA SAMAD

KOTA BARU, Thurs. — Umno has been working for Muslim unity and it has never deviated from the original objective of uniting the Malays, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister and Umno president said the party had always called for the Malays and Muslims to be united and to live in

peace and harmony, as required by Islam.

He said Umno had never taught its members and the people to hate one another unlike a Muslim opposition party in the State, in apparent reference to PAS.

"We try to practise what the religion teaches us — to co-operate not only with fellow Muslims but with the other races.

"It is pointless to quote the *Hadith* and verses from the Quran when a Muslim

doesn't practise what Islam asks him to do.

"We must show the truth, we must practise what we preach and not spread lies — *fitnah*," he said when opening the Desa Darul Naim housing project of the State Economic Development Corporation.

Dr Mahathir added that Umno had been branded as *kafir* for working with non-Malays by "that party" which was itself wooing the

non-Malays for its own selfish political interests.

He said that as Prime Minister, it was his responsibility to see that peace was maintained in the country as "I don't like people who create problems and cause unrest."

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Government had always appealed for unity and co-operation among the various races.

He advised the people to

be wary of those who were now going to villages to spread lies about Umno and the Barisan Government to disrupt unity.

He also spoke of how these people went overseas to lecture to Malaysian students and to collect money from them for their cause.

He said the Barisan Government and its predecessor, the Alliance Government, had always been responsible and had tried to

serve the people to the best of its ability.

"I believe if we are united, willing to co-operate and face the various challenges, we can achieve our objectives," he said.

On the project, he said that they were meant for academic staff of the Universiti Sains Malaysia's medical faculty in Kubang Kerian.

More than 5,000 people turned up to welcome him.