

Muslims' duty to help those who deviated: PM

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KOTA BARU, Fri. — Muslims in the country have a duty to help bring their fellow believers back to the right path, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Regardless of their political leanings, they must help Muslims who had deviated from the true Islamic teachings.

The Prime Minister urged Muslims to provide a guiding hand to Pas members who, he said, had strayed far from Islam.

"They have come to the point where they believe so much in their leaders that they cannot think for themselves," he said at a gathering in Mulong Lating, about 10 kilometres from here.

"It is our duty therefore as Muslims to help them — not for any political gains but because we are believers in the same faith."

Dr Mahathir said it was not the prime motive of Umno to win over Pas

followers.

"We don't mind if they wish to stay with Pas; we just want to help them and take them away from wrong and deviant teachings," he said.

He said the ordinary Pas members were not in themselves committing wrongs because they were merely abiding by the regulations and teachings of their leaders.

Contrary to the bellowing of Pas leaders, it was Pas members — not Umno — who needed to be "liberated", he said, since they were not free to listen to nor mix with Umno people.

He warned of the dangers of misusing the Quran and of bowing to emotional and uneducated pressure groups, which he said had resulted in the Pas *fatwa* (ruling) that Ibrahim Libya and his followers who died at Memali were martyrs.

It was grossly unjust on the part of Pas and its leaders to call other Muslims *kafir* and to reject everything that was not done by the party.