

ISLAMIC VALUES FOR ALL TIMES: DR M

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PETALING JAYA, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Islamic values were for all times "compatible with any and every age and situation" and that past practices should be used only as a guide.

He said that it was the fusion of new ideas based on the eternal principles of Islam and their practical implementation that would shape the destiny of Muslims.

"The challenge for those who would try to seek out ways of Islamising the discipline of management...is made more difficult by the neo-conservative approach of some Muslims who demand a total reintroduction

of a hotch-potch of ossified ancient laws and regulations devised to deal with situations which have long since disappeared.

"Past practices may be used as guides but they are certainly not an intrinsic part of Islamic dogma. The static traditionalism of some Muslims whose *taqlid*-orientation (blind imitation) goes against the dynamism of the Quran has meant that they have divorced themselves from human needs and conditions," he said.

The Prime Minister was opening a seminar on Islamic Management for the Asia-Pacific Region jointly organised by the Education Ministry and the Islamic

Development Bank at the International Islamic University here.

Dr Mahathir said that these *taqlid*-oriented scholars had given the legal decisions of the early Muslim jurists the value of eternal law, elevating them to the status of divine authority.

"Such is their insistence that even when these old authorities contradict the Quran, no one may dispute them. The tole of *ijtihad* (self-inquiry) is forgotten or circumscribed and that of *al-istilah* or public interest not even mentioned in passing," he said.