

Interact to promote greater tolerance, says PM

AST 18 AUG 1990

SEREMBAN, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad advised Muslims and non-Muslims to interact more often with each other so that they could discuss common issues and promote greater tolerance in the community.

The Prime Minister said such interaction was vital in a multi-racial society. He said such constant communication would help promote better understanding among the people.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the \$6 million Pusat Dakwah Islamiah at the Paroi-Senawang junction today.

He said Muslims and non-Muslims should seek a consensus on common issues.

"This will not only heighten each other's understanding but will also inspire respect among the rakyat."

Dr Mahathir, who was

here on a one-day visit, said the setting up of the Islamic centre here should encourage the State Government to carry out more religious activities but warned that the spread of religion should not be the result of force.

Islam is a respected religion and is also a way of life.

Its image can be further enhanced if the promoters could physically demonstrate its success.

Such success would help spread the influence of Islam and Islamic values, he said.

The centre, scheduled for completion in 1992, will enable the Government to co-ordinate all dakwah activities in the State.

Earlier, Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamed Isa Haji Abdul Samad advised Muslims to be wary of certain groups which are trying to undermine the Government's effort to promote Is-

lamic values in the administration.

These people may be using Islam as a rallying point.

However, they created confusion and rejected the Government's untiring efforts to inculcate Islamic values, he said.

Work on the centre's foundation is 80 per cent completed. Construction of the centre is scheduled to begin late this year.