

# Invasion has harmed Islam's image: PM

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SEREMBAN, Fri. — Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has tarnished the image of Islam among non-Muslims in the world, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said whatever good things they (non-Muslims) had heard about Islam had been undone by the invasion of a Muslim country by another Muslim country.

"The invasion is most unIslamic... It is against the Islamic teaching of brotherhood and patience. They had invaded

without warning, without trying to resolve the matter by negotiations," the Prime Minister said at the laying of a foundation stone at the Islamic Dakwah Centre here.

He also expressed concern that Iraq might attack the holy cities of Mecca and Madinah.

Later, at a dialogue with senior civil servants, Dr Mahathir said the Government was not taking sides in the Gulf crisis.

"We believe Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and that there should be

negotiations.

"To attack another country... just because of oil prices is wrong."

He said the split in the Muslim community in the country was also a bad example to the non-Muslims.

"There is a certain party, which claims to be based on Islam and calling itself an Islamic party, which chose to attack Umno because we cooperate with non-Muslims.

"Our fellow Barisan members like the MCA

and the MIC are no enemies of Islam. But... this same party is now also cooperating with non-Muslim parties which are against Islam," he said.

The Prime Minister said the early Muslims spread the Islamic faith by being peaceful and successful people.

"Non-Muslims were attracted to Islam because of the example set by Muslims then," he said, adding that the best way to propagate Islam was to set a good example to the non-Muslims.