

Religious hypocrites rapped

KLANG, Sat. — Extensive religious knowledge has no significance if this is not tempered with a realistic perspective of life and the environment, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

There were some people in this country who seemed to possess deep religious knowledge but their behaviour had no resemblance to the principles which their religion taught, he added.

He was referring to the group which possessed an intense knowledge of Islam and its values, but went around the country spreading malicious rumours and

undermining the Government's efforts in nation building.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to a huge crowd at the opening of the Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Udang, about four kilometres from here, this morning. He was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib and several senior Cabinet Ministers.

These people did not practise what they preached, Dr Mahathir said.

"Their knowledge of Islam may be deep, but their

actions suggest otherwise."

The Prime Minister stressed that the quest for knowledge must be accompanied by an active awareness of the promotion of an enlightened individual in current social, political and economic development.

Today the Muslim world was suffering from embarrassment following the crisis in the Gulf. There, Muslims were fighting one another much to the anxiety of Muslims elsewhere, he said.

He was particularly sad to note that there were Muslims whose skill in back-stabbing fellow Muslims was exceeded only by

their ability to run down national leaders whose main objectives were to promote socio-economic development and ensure political stability in the country.

He reminded these people to learn from the Quran, which stipulates that spreading *fitna* (malicious rumours) was far more dangerous than committing a serious crime such as murder.

Dr Mahathir later commended the school for its extra-curricular activities.

He singled out the school's *silat* demonstration, cultural performance and music studies as wise

investments in its effort to promote discipline and unity among pupils.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should be thankful that there were modern and sophisticated educational institutions here

Leaders of several countries who attended the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting in this country were surprised to see so many schools and other institutions of learning.

"These facilities are not available in many other developing countries."

The \$1 million school building was completed four months ago. Several companies contributed towards buying its equipment.

Also present at the opening ceremony were Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Works Minister Datuk Leo Moggie and Sarawak State Minister for Tourism Datuk James Wong.