

Dr. M.  
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Use

# Quran to settle conflicts

By Shamsul Akmar

KUALA TERENGGANU, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the contents of the *Quran* should be used wherever and whenever possible to settle conflicts and differences of opinion among Muslims.

Through proper use of the *Quran*, Muslims could seek solutions to their problems, Dr Mahathir said.

However, he said, there were times when the teachings of the *Quran* itself were wrongly interpreted and represented for the benefit of certain quarters.

"This has not only confused Muslims but also led to enmity as they have been fed with different interpretations of certain issues. This does not bring the Muslims any closer to solving their differences," the Prime Minister said when opening the Terengganu Islamic Foundation Printing Complex in Gong Badak about 25 kilometres from here this evening.

Dr Mahathir said the setting up of the printing complex was important for the production of more religious books and *Qurans* for

Muslims to refer. This would prevent Muslims from relying solely on *kitab*s and other religious publications produced by those with ulterior motives.

"We are aware that many Islamic religious books which have been produced cannot be used as terms of reference at all because they were produced not for the sake of Islamic development but for the selfish interest of certain quarters," he added.

The Prime Minister hoped with the setting up of the foundation's printing complex, a more responsible attitude could be adopted in the production of Islamic books.

"There would be no contradiction in our efforts to resolve some of our problems if we understand Islam. The problem solving would also be made easier if we refer to authoritative books on the issue.

"However, partly due to different interpretations and understanding of the religion, Muslims are divided. There are different groups, some of whom are political groups, which are against each other.

"This has weakened the Muslim community considerably and made it easy for non-Muslims to manipulate them," he said.