

PM urges Muslims to be adaptable.

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Muslims must take into consideration changes in situations and surroundings when implementing Islamic systems, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister added, however, that such systems must be in line with Islamic teachings.

"At the same time, Muslims must allow for self inspection and discard those attitudes and old ways which have become unsuitable as a result of misinterpretations, wrong teachings and disillusion," he said at the launching ceremony of the corporate zakat collection here.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was con-

stantly thinking of how its affairs and dealings could be made to suit the Islamic religion.

He cited the Islamic Bank, the Takaful insurance scheme and Zakat collection as some systems the Government had successfully implemented to suit the times.

He said these efforts were part of *addeen* (way of life) and did not call for a recreation of situations similar to those of Prophet Muhammad's era, imitating life 100 per cent.

"If Islamic ways can only be performed in a kind of society prevailing 1,400 years ago, it is like admitting that Islam is only meant for the 7th century in Arabland.

"But we all know that Islam is for all times and societies, be they Arab or non-Arab," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said a society that wished to be progressive and more successful than others must practise Islam rather than merely argue about conflicting Islamic theories.

"A society will be backward if it just lives on beautiful theories and concepts without practising, coupled with concrete planning and follow-up actions.

"This kind of society hides behind a disillusion till what is true becomes contradictory and replaced with interpretations and evaluation designed to hide reality.

"Hence, failure becomes success and they see defeat as victory," he said.

Dr Mahathir said one can rectify mistakes and improve oneself by accepting reality.

He said the argument that failure and defeat were fated could not be accepted and "is an insult to God."

Dr Mahathir also took to task those who told Muslims to practise only a certain aspect of Islam, in some cases more than what was mandatory, and to pray for God's help in achieving goals, without making any effort.

He said these people have to be exposed or else Muslims would continue to lag backward and remain weak.