

Target: Progressive Muslims by year 2020

KODIANG, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Muslims in this country to be as knowledgeable and progressive as the rest of the developed nations by the year 2020.

He also wants them to show the rest of the Muslim world that knowledge is the most effective means of acquiring strength and respect.

Speaking after breaking fast at the Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Mada) complex here, he said Muslims in this country could achieve this target if they were determined and believed in themselves.

"Malays or Muslims have shown that they can

achieve things which many thought they could not. They can fly large planes, produce microchips and cars which nobody thought they could ever do," he said.

The Prime Minister, whose speech was delayed by 20 minutes by a sudden power failure, expressed confidence the Muslims could achieve this target if they were as determined as the Japanese who had rebuilt their economy and acquired enormous knowledge after they lost the war to the allied forces during the second world war.

He said the Japanese became poor and were looked down upon by some countries after the war but they worked hard and is now the

only Asian country to be among the seven richest in the world.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims should stop the practice of venting anger through demonstrations as this could seldom achieve results.

He cited a statement by Pas leader Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat recently as saying that "kerja itu ibadat" (work is an expression of obedience to Allah).

The Prime Minister also wants Muslims in the country to take greater pride in their mosques by contributing towards their construction. He said they would not give adequate care to mosques if they built them solely on allocations from the Government.