

# PM on Islamic values and an efficient govt

By **AZAMARIS**

A GOVERNMENT which instills Islamic values, the majority of them acceptable to non-Muslims as they are universal norms, will pave the way for a strong and efficient administration.

Prime Minister Datuk Dr Seri Mahathir Mohamad said the Islamic values that will be adopted by the Government can result in a machinery that can govern the country peacefully and effectively as well as charter a rapid rate of development — at par with other successful administrations.

“A government which really practices Islamic values in its administration will be successful. However, if these values are interpreted in an inaccurate and narrow manner, there is a possibility that the Islamic administration will fail.

“And if this happens, do not blame Islam, but blame those who gave the wrong interpretations,” he said in a chapter on infusing Islamic values in government administration, which appeared in the book entitled “Values and Ethics in the Civil

Service” published by the Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (Intan). The book was launched by the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the values that will be given priority by the Government are those that are acceptable to non-Muslims such as honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, hard-working, sincerity, discipline and values that place greater importance on the interest of the public than on oneself.

These values are necessary in the administration as the Government has to protect the interest of the public. A corrupt and dishonest administration will only betray the people’s trust.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Prophet Muhammad, who is known as Al-Amin for his honesty and integrity, is the example for all Muslims to emulate.

“A Muslim should not only follow the physical aspects of the Sunnah (practices) but must also emulate the good values of the

Prophet.

“For example, one who spots a beard is following the physical aspect of the Sunnah but if he is dishonest, than he is far away from being a good Muslim.

“Spiritual practices such as prayers, fasting, giving alms and performing the haj (the last two practices are for those who can afford) is a must for Muslims but these practices must be assimilated with good Islamic values if one is to become a good Muslim,” he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Islam is a flexible religion and it should not be enforced rigidly. For example, during the Islamic rule in Spain, it was proven that non-Muslims enjoyed a high degree of freedom and Muslim laws were not forced on them.

“There were many countries where Muslims formed the majority of the population and the leaders were also Muslims but ‘hudud’ laws and other Islamic laws were not implemented. Even in Saudi Arabia, there are Islamic laws that were not enforced,” he said.