

# MAHATHIR: VIEW ISLAMIC VALUES PRACTICALLY

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The assimilation of Islamic values in the Government administration should be viewed in the context of its practices and not terminology, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said Muslims in the present day had given too much emphasis on the terminology used in its assimilation, and this had indirectly caused them to slow down their rate of progress.

He added that in comparison Muslims had, in the two centuries after the death of Prophet Muhammad, progressed and developed a civilisation which was more sophisticated than those developed during the same era.

"It was during that time Muslims were able to spread the Islamic culture from Spain in Europe to China in the Far East," he said in his article entitled *Assimilation of Islamic Values* in a book called *Values and Ethics in the Civil Service*.

The book, produced by

the National Institute of Public Administration, was launched by the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid today.

Dr Mahathir said among the values to be assimilated were honesty, trust, responsibility, hardworking, sincerity and discipline.

"These values are essential in the Government service as the need to serve the public is more important than serving our own needs," he said.

Dr Mahathir also pointed out that while Muslims in the country had accepted these values, non-Muslims should also adopt values which did not contra-

dict with their religious beliefs.

He also pointed out that with the assimilation process, it would not result in an administration which is weak and chaotic but rather the opposite.

"A government which assimilates the values in the right way will be successful," he said.