

# Institute to help all understand Islam

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that the newly-launched Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding (IKIM) will promote a better understanding of Islam among Muslims and non-Muslims.

"I wish to clarify that IKIM is an institute of Islamic understanding and not an institute of Islamic thought," he said.

"Its objective is different in the sense that we wish to see the Muslims and the non-Muslims understand Islam better."

He said a clear understanding of Islam was important because many quarters had given different interpretations.

"The institute must not have any interest whatsoever except to search for the truth," he said after launching IKIM and opening a two-day congress on *Approaching the 21st Century: Islam and Vision 2020*.

On hudud laws, he said IKIM would study the law based only on the Quran.

"We have proven that in Malaysia, the rule by the majority of Islamic people is fair to all races and this has been the culture of Islamic rule since time immemorial."