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MALAYSIA MUST BE STRONG TO DEFEND ISLAM, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUALA BESUT, July 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia should be strong to defend Islam and Muslims throughout the world.

He said that if the country was strong, the views expressed by the country at any venue would certainly be respected.

Speaking to residents of Kampung Teluk Budu near here after performing Friday prayers, he said at present Malaysia could not do much to help the oppressed Muslims because +we are not a superpower.+

Dr Mahathir that it was not Malaysia's intention to dominate other countries but it was necessary for the country to make itself strong so that it could help Muslims in other countries.

The Prime Minister said that Muslims in the country should appreciate their freedom to worship and practise the religion.

Dr Mahathir arrived here this afternoon from Pulau Perhentian where he spent the night.

He was accompanied by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor. Bernama

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