

# PM: Don't leave out development

KUALA LUMPUR: Islamic preachers should concentrate on building a society which is development and action-oriented, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahatir Mohamad yesterday.

He said it was pointless to preach too much on the prayers and religious rites without emphasis on development.

"This will ultimately result in a weak Muslim society which could not compete and fight effectively against developed

non-Muslim countries," he added at the opening of a national course for Islamic preachers here.

Dr Mahathir said it was time for preachers to also concentrate on the physical well-being of Muslims to ensure that they would not be left out in international economy.

To date, he said the weakness of Muslim countries was evident as they were incapable of assisting their brothers who were attacked by non-Muslims.

11 DEC 1992  
"Even the grouping of Islamic nations are unable to do anything as they are too dependent on foreign nations.

"We can only sigh and blame the enemies of Islam but the fact is, we only have ourselves to blame," he said.

Dr Mahathir said while today's emphasis on preparations for the hereafter was commendable, little thought was given to the development aspect of the Islamic society.

He said efforts were

lacking to create a progressive Islamic society respected by the international community.

"The development of (Islamic) society and nation should be a part of the preaching," he said.

Also present was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha, Deputy Minister in the PM's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Othman and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid.