

Muslims must strive to acquire skills, say Dr M

JITRA, Thurs. — Muslims must strive to acquire knowledge and skills to possess the strength to counter the enemies of Islam. Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister added that knowledge and skills will enable Muslims to safeguard the religion and the interests of the community.

"Knowledge will enable Muslims to defend Islam and also to manage our economy and wealth," he said at the opening of a seminar for mosque officials in Kubang Pasu district at the Al-A'la mosque here.

He advised Muslims to change their attitude and strive to acquire knowledge for the betterment of Muslims and the country.

Dr Mahathir urged Muslims to be sensitive to the problems faced by Muslims and to help them.

The government has helped Muslims here acquire knowledge by sending students to pursue medicine and engineering courses.

"It provides facilities like mosques and surau and organises religious and Quran classes to encourage Muslims to acquire religious knowledge," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said that none of the Islamic countries in the world were powerful enough to defend the Muslims. This was because some of these countries wasted their time bickering, he added.

"This situation has forced certain Islamic countries which are riddled with problems to seek the aid of non-Islamic countries instead of fellow Islamic countries," he added.

Dr Mahathir said some of these non-Islamic countries had obvious objectives to interfere in other countries and grabbed the opportunity when certain Islamic countries sought their aid.

Due to these weaknesses, he said Islamic countries, including Malaysia, could not provide much assistance to other needy Islamic countries.

"We could only watch and hear the atrocities which the Serbs committed against the Bosnians, hundreds of Somalians dying of hunger and the Palestinians' fight against the Jews," he said.