

PM: Muslims should emulate noble values of the Prophet

By Balbeer S. Jessy

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Muslims should continue to strive for and emulate the noble values of Prophet Muhammad so that they can strengthen themselves morally and mentally in life, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"The qualities of the Prophet, including truth, honesty, evangelism and wisdom, should be a source of inspiration to us," he added.

"If these four values are practised in our life, I am confident that we can achieve excellence in all that we do in life," he told more than 15,000 Muslims at the launch of the national-level Prophet Muhammad birthday celebrations at Merdeka Square here today.

Dr Mahathir added that the four noble values

formed the cornerstone of the Government's administration and urged community leaders, administrators and professionals to strive to emulate the values of the Prophet.

The noble values of the Prophet will also help prevent Muslims from being influenced by negative values and cultures.

For instance, he said modern technology, such as satellite communications, allowed people to see what was happening around the world in our homes.

But to fight negative aspects, "we cannot promulgate rules to prevent others from spreading their bad values to us," he added.

In this context, the practice of the Prophet's noble and high values could act as a barrier and filter to protect Muslims from negative influences, he added.

Dr Mahathir also touched

on the importance of unity among Muslims, a lack of which, he said, would hamper progress.

"Although this is not new, we must remember that our failure to achieve success is due to the break-up and lack of unity among Muslims.

"Those who do not value unity are clearly concerned only with themselves ... they only highlight a group identity and topics which are individualistic and transient."

Dr Mahathir said those who did not give priority to unity clearly revealed their self importance. They only promulgate the identity and issues that are individualistic and temporary.

"This is a disease among the Muslim community today that is difficult to cure."

"And if this sort of attitude and issues continue to take precedence, then it will be difficult to overcome

even bigger problems facing us."

Dr Mahathir urged Muslims in the country to focus on religious development and cast aside elements which could cause disunity.

"If the Muslim community does not want to move forward with progress and development, it will be left behind forever and will be weak, exploited and separated by its religion," he added.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mahathir said in some parts of the world Islamic nations were at war with each other and this gave an opportunity for Western powers to take advantage of them.

"What is the use of Muslims fighting among themselves. It is of no benefit to them at all. Look at the Middle East ... and even in Malaysia when it happens at times," he added.