

Uphold Prophet's moral traits, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR: Muslims have been urged to create a unique and exemplary identity by emulating Prophet Muhammad's moral traits to excel in all their pursuits.

"He is the most promi-

nent example. He should be the source of inspiration for us to achieve excellence in all our endeavours," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"The Prophet's primary

qualities such as truthfulness, trustworthiness, responsibility of conveying the truth and wisdom are important traits to achieve excellence," he said when launching the national level *Maulidur*

Rasul celebration at Dataran Merdeka yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the noble values which the Government had imbued in its administrative machinery were based on these traits.

"Leaders, administrators, professionals, and society in general should strive to emulate such traits in every endeavour," he added.

In the struggle of the Prophet and his companions, Dr Mahathir said, they had achieved success through "careful planning, consultation, systematic implementation and commitment."

Dr Mahathir also advised Muslims to be wary in facing the "winds of change" and developments to prevent negative values from penetrating the "cultural barrier."

Muslims celebrated the Prophet Muhammad's birthday with renewed determination to achieve success in all fields.

The call is in line with this year's theme "Struggle Towards Excellence" (*Berjihad Kearah Kece-merlangan*) aimed at reminding Muslims of the need of hard work, co-operation and understanding to achieve progress.

More than 25,000 Muslims converged at the square. A procession started at the National Mosque at 8am with 95 contingents representing the public and private sectors, chanting *salawat*, before ending at the square.

Also present were the Prime Minister's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba, and Muslim Cabinet ministers and members of the diplomatic corps.

The highlight of the gathering was the presentation of excellence awards to 34 people in various fields (see Page 2).