

Diligence and honesty vital,

KANGAR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reminded Muslims that honesty and diligence are among the qualities which can ensure their success in trade and industry.

Nevertheless, he said, other moral values should not be forgotten.

Speaking at the opening of the 35th National Quranic Reciters Assembly here tonight, he said the country's aim of attaining developed nation status by the year 2020 would not become a reality through just a vision.

"Therefore, certain characteristics and factors are

necessary (to ensure achievement)," he said.

In this respect, he added, the Prophet would be a fine example for "his honesty and diligence had made him a successful trader."

He said by possessing these qualities, the Muslim community in this country would be able to participate in the process of development and become a progressive group on par with other communities.

"With this, the (good) image of Islam and the Muslims, which disappeared for hundreds of years since the glorious age of Islam, can be revived."

Dr Mahathir said in line

NST - 5 JAN 1993
with this year's theme of the assembly — "Vision Develops the Ummah" — it was appropriate for Muslims in the country to adhere to the true teachings of Islam which required them to strive for both material and spiritual development.

"Vision 2020, which will turn Malaysians into a progressive people, is in line with Islamic teachings."

He also reminded Muslims that they should not only strive for riches alone but should acquire knowledge, efficiency and the ability to manage their wealth as well so that they could protect Islam from humiliation.

He also said that Muslims' participation in trade and industry and in science and technology in the country was still low despite the realisation that participation in these fields was necessary to ensure the country's development and the success of our vision.

"Muslims are not supposed to be consumers only. They must strive to become creators and producers of the necessities of life which they currently buy and use.

"Muslims who only know how to use goods produced by others can easily be exploited by the suppliers," Dr Mahathir added.

says PM