

Mahathir: Practise religious tolerance

MALACCA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called on youths to be "messiahs" of religious harmony and tolerance.

"It is vital that youths, as leaders of tomorrow, be given proper understanding of the teachings of all religions so that they can be better equipped to practise cultural tolerance and promote world peace," he said in his message to participants of the seminar on *Religious and Cultural Tolerance*.

Dr Mahathir said the hosting of the seminar was appropriate, given the current ethnic strife, atrocities and bloodshed in the world today.

"It will certainly help refocus world attention on the need to promote and enhance religious and cultural tolerance, while strengthening the youths' resolve to overcome this persistent problem globally," he said.

Dr Mahathir said although all religions preached love, tolerance, understanding and brotherhood, it was unfortunate that these principles were not practised.

Religious and ethnic strife only brought hardship, he added.