

Do not distort Islam, PM tells Muslims

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By PAUL GABRIEL

ALOR STAR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed concern over the distortion of Islamic teachings to the young by certain quarters.

The Prime Minister said yesterday there were children who were told not to sing on New Year's Day as this was the Christian way and some preached that Friday was a rest day in Islam and it should not be a working day for Muslims.

On the contrary, Dr Mahathir stressed that there was nothing unIslamic about children singing and that Muslims should instead work on Friday after prayers.

"We have to ask ourselves whether what was taught to our children (by some quarters) is based on the true teachings of Islam or just the whims of certain people.

"I fear that if Islamic teachings are allowed to be distorted as such, Mus-

PM: It's up to the Rulers

SUNGAI PETANI: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday the Government will not interfere in the appointment of the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

It was up to the Rulers Conference to decide if they wanted to appoint the present deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong or another Sultan for the post, the Prime Minister told reporters when asked to comment on the Rulers Conference next week.

The tenure of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah ends in March. — Bernama

lims might lose heart and leave the religion.

"This has already occurred in other parts of the world," he stressed at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the new RM1.6 million mosque in Bandar Bukit Kayu Hitam, about 45km from here.

Also present was Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff.

Dr Mahathir was disappointed there were Muslims who were easily swayed by trivialities and were not firm on the fun-

damentals of the religion.

He said there were constant appeals for new mosques with comfortable features but everyone depended on the Government for allocations and few made an effort to raise their own funds.

Dr Mahathir had earlier witnessed the signing of a joint venture agreement for the development of the RM17 million *Jerai International Park* between the Kedah Government, Suria Eksklusif Sdn Bhd and Duta Point Sdn Bhd at Wisma Darul Aman.