

# PM: Let's prove an Islamic nation can progress

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LANGKAWI, Thurs. — Malaysia wants to prove that an Islamic nation can progress and develop like any other developed nation, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said tonight.

He said Malaysia aspired to be a model Islamic nation and wanted to prove to the world that a nation governed by an Islamic administrator could also achieve progress.

Dr Mahathir said Islamic nations had been branded as being backward and besieged with problems.

"We want to prove this perception wrong and that an Islamic nation can also progress like other developed nations.

"This is our aspiration. We want to prove that besides fulfilling our religious obligations, we can lead our nation to becoming a developed Islamic nation so that our religion will be respected by all quarters."

To achieve this, Dr Mahathir said Muslims must strive to maintain the country's stability and intensify their efforts to develop the country.

The Prime Minister said this when speaking to about 500 Langkawi resi-

dent experiences here but some of us tend to forget that we are so fortunate to live in this country."

Dr Mahathir said some were not satisfied to the extent that they took unnecessary action to fulfil their desires.

He said the Muslims should be grateful that they were able to perform their religious obligations without being disturbed.

"We are so well off that the Saudi Government could not accommodate some Malaysian pilgrims to perform the haj this year.

"We must be grateful and we should not neglect our teachings," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the Muslims should appreciate the spirit of the people of Uzbekistan who showed a strong love for Islam despite being under the rule of the communists for almost 70 years.

"The calligraphy in this mosque (Masjid Al-Hana) was done by Uzbek experts. They did not do this for money but for the love of Islam," he added.

## PICTURE ON PAGE 2

dents after the breaking of fast at Masjid Al-Hana in Kuah here.

Joining him at the mosque were Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and State Executive Councillors Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain and Datuk Abu Bakar Taib.

Dr Mahathir reminded Muslims of the importance of being grateful for being citizens of a peaceful nation.

"In some countries, the Muslims do not even have enough food for the breaking of fast while in other countries, the Muslims have to withstand torture and attacks from their foes.

"We do not endure such