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Build up economies, Muslim nations urged

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MUSLIM countries must build their own economies as this will stop them from having to borrow from rich countries which in turn will bind them from assisting other Muslim countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said economic stability will free a nation of assistance from its enemies. "When assistance is given, they (the nation) are bound (by the enemy) and this will make them weak.

"As such, when another Muslim nation asks for help, they cannot give (the assistance)," he said at the Palestine Children's charity concert in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Dr Mahathir said that when a nation is strong both economically and politically, its voice on matters such as oppression will be heard.

Citing Malaysia as an example, the prime minister said the Government had on many occasions voiced out its views on matters such as Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine, and have gained the support of other Muslim countries.

He also urged war-torn Muslim countries such as Palestine to continue their struggle for a liberated nation, not through force, but peaceful means.

"Efforts to free Palestine cannot be a short-term solution. The struggle must go on," he said.

The concert, organised by the Malaysia Sociological Research Institute and Palestinian Abused Women and Children Fund, raised RM600,000. Sponsors of the concert were, among others, Malaysia Airlines, Denko Industrial Corp, YTL, TA Enterprise, Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Bhd and the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

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