

07/09/1997

Dr M pays tribute to Mother Teresa

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today paid tribute to Mother Teresa, describing her as a good example of what selfless devotion to charity is all about.

"We are saddened by it (her death) ... she has done a great job and she is an example of what selfless devotion to charity is all about.

"I hope she can be a good example to all our charity workers and philanthropists.

"They should spend time like Mother Teresa and do good work instead of doing other kinds of work," he told a Press conference at Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, had earlier attended the party's general assembly.

Mother Teresa, 87, better known as the "Saint of the Gutters", died of cardiac arrest at midnight yesterday at her religious order's headquarters in eastern India.

In New Delhi, the Indian Government decided to break with tradition and accord Mother Teresa a State funeral, an honour usually granted only to the head of state or Prime Minister, a spokesman said.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's Cabinet decided in a special meeting to declare a day of nationwide mourning today and to hold a state funeral on Sept 13 when the revered nun is scheduled to be buried in Calcutta, he said.

(END)