

Unite to become strong, Muslims told

By JACQUELINE ANN SURIN

KUALA LUMPUR: Muslims in the country must remain united so that they can be strong and defend other Muslim communities, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"Even though there are Muslim countries like Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh which have huge populations,

there isn't one Muslim country which is a world power.

"This is why the United States can attack Iraq, and Muslims (around the world) cannot do anything about it," the Prime Minister said yesterday when presenting a cheque for RM155mil to Felcra Bhd settlers at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

He said Muslim communi-

ties were too weak to even defend themselves, what more defend others of the same faith.

Dr Mahathir said only when the people were united would there be peace and stability in the country, adding: "This will allow us to acquire the wealth we need to develop and defend the Muslim community."

Also present at the function

was Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa who presented Dr Mahathir with a million signatures from villagers pledging their loyalty.

"I am very touched and inspired by the support shown to me. But I know that your support is because I am a symbol of the present leadership.

"It is not possible for me to last forever. I am human after

all," he said.

However, Dr Mahathir said he hoped he would be able to solve the country's problems before he retires.

Dr Mahathir also launched a book written by Annuar entitled *Transformasi Kedua Luar Bandar — Satu Komitmen* (The Second Transformation of the Rural Area — A Commitment).