

# PM urges Muslims to keep on striving for success

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ALOR STAR, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged Muslims to continue to strive for success to prove the Western perception of Islam wrong.

He said Islam had always been associated with terrorism by the West.

Dr Mahathir said the success of Muslims in Malaysia had dispelled that Western notion and was testimony that Islam was a religion of peace.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the ground breaking ceremony of a RM70 million Islamic complex known as Kompleks Islam Al-Bukhary.

The project was developed by Yayasan Al-Bukhary on an 11.6ha site at Ja-

lan Langgar.

Among the components of the project are the development of a mosque, religious school, an old folk's home, orphanage, bazaar for Muslim traders, medical centre, budget hotel and Muslim cemetery.

Dr Mahathir praised the foundation chairman Datuk Syed Mokhtar Al-Bukhary for developing the noble project.

He said the contribution reflected that Islam encouraged the people to acquire wealth for betterment of the religion and people.

He advised Muslims who had achieved success not to forget their roots and contribute to the religion, people and nation.

Dr Mahathir said the rea-

son for oppression of the Muslims was because they were poor.

He hoped the project would not only benefit Muslims but also the non-Muslims.

The Prime Minister said the non-Muslims should also be allowed to enjoy the opportunity to run businesses and study at the Islamic complex.

"This will help to erase misconceptions about our religion," he added.

Asked on the relationship between Muslims in the country, the Umno president said the party had never used Islam as a political issue. He regretted that certain quarters were using Islam to create hatred among Muslims.