

Dr M on the true meaning of sacrifice

NS 7 18 3. 2000

ALOR STAR, Fri. — Muslims in the country will be more united if they understood the true meanings behind the act of sacrifice during Aidil Adha, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the sacrificial act meant that Muslims need to sacrifice things they love to achieve something which is good for the future.

"It has a deeper meaning than just slaughtering cattle for distribution to poor Muslims.

"I believed if our *ulamak* preached the Islamic teachings on the meaning of the *korban*, we will have a harmonious and united Muslim society," he said when asked by reporters to elaborate on his speech at a feast in Paya Sena in Pendang earlier.

He was speaking at a Press conference at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport before his departure for Kuala Lumpur.

Addressing the villagers, Dr Mahathir said Muslims should understand the meaning of *korban* and adopt the teachings as part of their lifestyle.

In his speech Dr Mahathir reminded Muslims not to be too taken up (*taksub*) with a certain group until they refuse to admit the wrongdoings.

He said Muslims must not be like the Arabs during the times before Islam who would stand by their tribe despite knowing that their tribesmen had done wrong.

It is therefore better for them to sacrifice and detach themselves from their group for the betterment of the Muslim community.

Asked if his message was meant for Pas supporters, he said:

"Who eats chilli will feel hot...if they feel this hits them that means they are guilty.

"I only talk about the 'korban' ... some people said it is merely the slaughtering of cows and that is not the lesson from the act."

Asked what similarity the times before Islam and the present time has, Dr Mahathir said:

"Now we find people are too taken up with their group until although their group does something wrong, they continue to give their support," he added.