

PM: No such thing as 'kebal' in Islam

NSL 21 JUL 2000

ANYBODY who believes he is *kebal* (immune from pain and bulletproof), should come and see me.

"I will then slash the person and we'll see if such a thing exists . . . it's all nonsense. Only cowards of the worst kind believe in all this *kebal* nonsense."

That was how Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described those who believed in attaining extraordinary powers which could turn them into super-humans who could not be harmed.

Dr Mahathir said anyone who believed in such powers was actually a deviant because there was no such thing in Islam.

"Ini satu kebodohan kerana tak ada orang yang kebal."

"Bila orang percaya dia boleh jadi kebal dia dah jadi sesat . . . tak ada dalam Islam orang yang kebal."

(It is foolishness because no one, is invincible. When one starts believing he is invincible, then he can be described as a deviant ... in Islam no one is invincible.)

The Prime Minister said this to reporters after opening the State Umno convention yesterday.

He was describing the Al-Ma'unah followers and their leader Mohd Amin Mohd Razali.

Al-Ma'unah cult members impersonated army officers to steal weapons from two army camps in Grik and were later, besieged by security forces at Bukit Jenalik earlier this month.

In the five-day standoff, some members surrendered while others were captured.

The cult members also tortured and killed an army commando and a Special Branch detective.

The cult members had believed

they were invincible and could not be killed.

Dr Mahathir said he had a personal experience 'with people who believed they were *kebal*.'

Recalling an incident in 1969 when he practised medicine here, Dr Mahathir said he met a man who claimed he was invincible.

"He tried to convince people he was truly invincible and used a knife to cut himself.

"He collected a lot of money by showing off his *kebal* skill. I asked him to come to my clinic and showed him a syringe and sure enough it could penetrate the man's body . . . *mana kebal? Bodoh!* (where is the invincibility? Stupid!)"