

Dr M: PAS states in race to be more Islamic

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. Prime Miter Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has **criticised** the PAS governments in Terengganu and Kelantan for their increasingly narrow interpretations of Islam.

He said the two state governments are trying so hard to outdo each that they are not

really **fighting** for the religion.

Speaking at a press **conference** this morning, he said recent developments about PAS Terengganu trying to project a more Islamic image had unwittingly forced Kelantan to do likewise.

"Terengganu has banned Muslim women from Quran-

reading competitions as they cannot tolerate listening to them," he said.

Mahathir said after PAS ordered the dismantling of a statue of a leatherback turtle in Kuala Terengganu claiming it was **unIslamic**, Kelantan PAS did the same to a statue of a **kijang** (deer).

He said the **kijang** had been the state's symbol for the past 10 years but now PAS had decided to destroy it.

"PAS is trying to show it is more Islamic than others. It is moving towards more extreme and narrower **interpretations** of Islam when it calls for moderation," he said.

SUN 29.7.2008