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Dr M to meet Musa over history lessons

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will raise the need to educate students on the history of pre-independence leaders with Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said the story behind people like Datuk Onn Jaafar, Datuk Panglima Bukit Gantang and Datuk Nik Kamil were strangely not being well told to students.

He said the life stories of those who struggled for independence should be told in full as they had worked for the well-being of the people.

He said when asked at a Press conference whether he would discuss the matter with Musa.

He had earlier been asked to elaborate on his speech when opening the 16th Conference of the International Associations of Asia where he had touched on the history of the country pertaining to pre-independence leaders.

On his reference to the subjugation of weak nations by strong ones through bombings and kidnappings, he said it did not refer to this region alone.

"Not in this region alone. Worldwide its like that. When the weak are oppressed, they resort to violence which may be futile, but that is their only outlet.

"So they bombed the World Trade Centre, attacked the Olympic Games and bombed airplanes and in the process innocent people were killed."

Dr Mahathir said embassies were also targets with those belonging to very powerful countries becoming fortified and staff living living very insecure lives.

On Malaysia's role in solving this problem, the Prime Minister said the country wanted to show the world that the best way to help Muslims was to develop the country.

This could be done by developing their capacities in every way so that they will be able to compete.

"We want Muslims in this country to be well-educated so that they would be able to participate in commerce and industry and share the same kind of wealth that others have so that there will be less envy," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there would be greater respect for Muslims if they did not indulge in terrorism.

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