

# PM: Muslim world must speak as one voice

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called on Muslim countries to "speak as one voice" in the face of Western-controlled economic and political power.

"Muslim countries must sit together and discuss what we can do. If we stand alone, we will surely be attacked for making our views," the Prime Minister told participants of an international seminar on "The Impact of Globalisation on the Islamic World: Issues and Challenges for the 21st Century," here yesterday.

Fielding questions from the floor, Dr Mahathir said Muslims should use the impact of the globalisation wave to equip and strengthen themselves against Western-controlled economic and political power.

"Muslim countries have no choice but to accept the globalisation process.

"But, at the same time, they should put to use the good effects of globalisation to make a united stand against Western-controlled views on issues such as the World Trade Organisation," he said.

"Everytime a Muslim tries to develop and acquire knowledge deemed unIslamic, such as engineering, he will be considered a 'secular' person," he said.

"We have done everything to defend and help the *um-mah*; yet, we are called infidels," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims would miss out on the information and communication technology age if such views persist.