

SUN - 9 IIII 2001

PM: Need to clear up misconceptions about Islam

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun: There is a serious need to explain Islam to Muslims and non-Muslims both here and abroad as there are many misinterpretations and misconceptions about the religion.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Islam is often linked with terrorist activities.

Citing the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma in 1995, he said initially, the blame was placed on Muslim terrorists.

But later, an American, Timothy McVeigh, was convicted of the crime and put

to death on June 11.

Mahathir was speaking at a press conference after opening the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim) radio station on Friday.

He also said that media information on Islam is often biased and added that there is a pressing need to correct this.

There are many misconceptions among Muslims and non-Muslims as to how they should relate to one another, and Mahathir hoped the RM12.8 million station can play a major role in correcting this.