

# PM: Eliminate reasons for terrorism

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**PUTRAJAYA, Tues:** One way to counter terrorism is to identify and eliminate the cause or causes which terrorists fight for, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We have to identify the cause and then we can overcome future terrorism because at the moment we may hunt all terrorists and yet there is no guarantee that other people may not become terrorists," he said.

"Unless there is a two-pronged approach or an attempt to remove the causes of the very strong feelings for which people are prepared to commit suicide, terrorism will not stop."

Mahathir, speaking at a press conference to announce

ce a RM4.3 billion economic stimulus package to cushion any adverse impact from the US economic slowdown caused by terrorist attacks, suggested that an international conference be held to define terrorism.

"The definition should cover state-sponsored terrorism and actions to be taken," he said.

"We do not agree that all terrorists are Muslims. There are also terrorists from other religions."

Mahathir said he had written to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on the matter and linked terrorism to what is happening in Palestine, Iraq and Sudan.

"I have yet to receive any reply from him."