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PM: Don't be influenced by teachings

Farush Khan in Seiyun, Hadhramout

CONCERNED with the fate of Muslims and the danger of disunity, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on Malaysians studying Islam abroad not to be influenced by teachings unrelated to the religion.

The Prime Minister said this was important as they would return to their homeland to educate the people "what Islam actually is".

Islam, he said, was a religion which emphasised on brotherhood.

"However, the Muslims today are far from being brothers. They become enemies to each other. They cannot develop their country and become weak," he told Malaysian students who are studying at the University Al-Ahqaf in Ta'arim, about 60km from here yesterday.

There are 188 Malaysian students in Yemen. They are private students pursuing Islamic studies and the Arabic language.

He said as they were weak, Muslims were being killed or tortured indiscriminately. Muslim children, he said, were killed in Palestine by the Jews, but "we did nothing".

This was so because Muslims did not do what was required by their religion, which was to stand up to their enemies, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Muslims there are fond of leaving their predicament to fate and it was this attitude which made them weak.

He said the Yemenis appeared interested to learn from Malaysia because of the extent of development that they saw Malaysia had achieved.

"If development is not important to Muslims why should they be interested?"

He also spoke on the need for the Muslims to diversify their expertise and speciality.

"Some of us need to learn about Islam specifically and others go into other fields, especially the information technology which is expanding."

This, he said, was necessary to ensure that Muslims were not left out and become weak and oppressed.