

PM: What happened in Afghanistan could happen here

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ALOR STAR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has advised Malaysians to learn from the Afghan experience if they do not want to see the country in a shambles.

The Prime Minister said events that had happened in Afghanistan could happen here if the people were not united.

He said the various Afghan leaders were at loggerheads, craving to rule the country, and those in power were cruel to their enemies.

"When they were in power, they treated the women badly. The country is now facing bombardment (by the United States), forcing mothers to feed grass to their children.

"The people there live in poverty and about US\$57bil (RM216bil) is needed to rebuild Afghanistan.

"However, there had been attempts by some Malaysians to set up this type of government here in the name of *Jihad* and the Government has acted accordingly," he said yesterday

at a gathering with civil servants at the Darul Aman Teachers Training Institute.

Dr Mahathir noted that some Muslim parents sent their children to religious institutions in Pakistan and Afghanistan without checking the backgrounds of these places.

Instead of teaching religious studies, these institutions taught their students how to stage an uprising to topple the government, he added.

"If you ask these students what they want to do in life, they will tell you that they want to be holy warriors. But who do they want to fight for? When the Government acted upon this group, we did not do it to hit out at a certain political party," he added.

The Prime Minister also touched on the Al-Ma'unah movement, saying that it was not a drama staged by the Government.

"Killing people is not a drama and the Al-Ma'unah members were not the Government's actors," he said.