

Dr M, bankers, dons and officials attend dialogue on gold dinar

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today attended a dialogue session on the gold dinar with representatives from banks, universities and ministries at the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim).

The dialogue, which was preceded by a 90-minute keynote address by the Prime Minister on the country's proposal to use the gold dinar, was organised by **Ikim**.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, spent more than half-an-hour taking questions from the floor during the closed-door dialogue.

Among those who attended the dialogue were Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Mohamed Salleh, Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister on fi-

nancial matters Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop and National Economic Action Council executive director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Other participants were representatives from the banking and financial sectors, universities, State religious departments, Inland Revenue Board, Employees' Provident Fund, KTM Bhd and the media.

After the dialogue, Dr Mahathir launched four books published by **Ikim** — ***Ekonomi Islam dan Perlaksanaannya di Malaysia*** (The Islamic Economy and Its Implementation in Malaysia), ***Corporate Governance from the Islamic Perspective***, ***Kriteria Negara Berasaskan Prinsip Islam*** (The Country's Criteria Based on Islamic Principles) and ***Peranan Ibubapa dalam Pembentukan Sah-siah Anak-anak*** (The Role of Parents in their Children's Development).

The dialogue is a prelude to an international seminar on "The Islamic Dinar — Towards Economic

Unity of Muslim Communities" being organised by **Ikim** which will be held on June 25 and 26.

The seminar will, among others, discuss theoretical knowledge of the dinar system, the role of the Government and the central bank in regulating the system, its *modus operandi*, how it contributes to economic unity among Muslim communities, and its viability and challenges.

Dr Mahathir had proposed the use of the gold dinar as a currency for international trade last year, saying that its wide usage would give Islamic countries tremendous power to manage their own affairs and even to influence the world.

Malaysia is keen on using the gold dinar to substitute major currencies like the US dollar for its trade payments.

Dr Mahathir had said Malaysia has worked out the mechanics for using the gold dinar, which is less volatile than ordinary currencies.