

Dr M: PAS man tried to disgrace me at Friday prayers

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KUALA TERENGGANU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told reporters after attending Friday prayers at a mosque here yesterday that a tussle between two men to read the *khutbah* (sermon) was meant to shame him.

One of the men, believed to be a local PAS leader, had

tried to take over the role of *khatib* to deliver the sermon.

State assembly speaker Datuk Husain Awang, however, intervened and advised another man, government-appointed *imam* Mohd Noor Abu Bakar, to address the congregation.

Husain took over the role of *imam* to lead prayers at Haji

of Mat Shafie Mosaue in Kampung Losong near here.

The Prime Minister said he was very disappointed with the incident.

"The PAS leader was trying to put me to shame in front of the congregation by reading a sermon that would have disgraced me.

"He had wanted to be both

khatib and *imam*," Dr Mahathir said after presenting house keys to 200 fishermen at Kampung Tok Jembal, Seberang Takir.

"We, in Umno, are willing to follow anybody who is *imam* during prayers but PAS teaches its followers not to follow any *imam* unless he is from PAS," he added.

He said the incident should not have happened as mosques were meant for Muslims to strengthen their relationships and unity.

On the Hudud and Qisas laws introduced by Terengganu, Dr Mahathir said Umno did not support the laws as they were against the Quran.