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Muslims must develop capacity for self-defence

JITRA, Tues. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged Muslims to realise that religious obligations were not limited to the basic tenets of Islam, but also included social responsibilities.

These, said the Prime Minister, included the acquisition and mastery of all forms of knowledge to enable Muslims to develop the capacity to defend themselves and their brethren in other countries from the enemies of the religion.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims must realise that those who defended the country for other Muslims enabling them to perform their religious obligations in safety and security were making a significant contribution to Islam.

"We must acknowledge the role of those who defend Muslims from attack because they are sacrificing their time and energy to protect other Muslims," the Prime Minister said after breaking fast and performing the Maghrib prayers at the Kampung Gelong Rambai mosque in Tunjang, near here.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, later joined in the Isya' and tarawih prayers.