

PM: Ulama must ensure Islam's relevance

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JOHOR BARU: The *ulama* who are the experts in interpreting the Quran and *hadis* must provide explanations on issues to ensure Islam's relevance in the present day, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said it was impossible that the Quran and *hadis*, which had been the reference centre for Muslims, could not provide

any guidance or explanation needed by them.

"We understand that many things that we have and see now did not exist 1,400 years ago but if we examine carefully the content of the Quran and *hadis* and then we refer the matter to the experts in the area, I am sure there is an explanation to everything.

"So, it is not that the Quran did

not provide us with the guidance and explanation but it is our weakness in failing to find the guidance," he said when opening the 46th National Quran Recital Competition here last night.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and his wife Datin Prof Jamilah Ariffin.

Twenty-eight *qari* and *qariah* are

taking part in the competition.

Dr Mahathir said the *ulama* who interprets verses in the Quran and the meaning of *hadis* has a vital role to play.

"During Prophet Muhammad's time, there was no such thing as blood transfusion but the *ulama* and medical experts made a decree that the procedure is not against the teachings of Islam," he said.