

Suicide bombing is wrong, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Suicide bombings that lead to the loss of innocent lives is not acceptable in Islam, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said he appreciated the fact that some Palestinians had little choice (when carrying out the bombings) as they did not have proper weapons to fight for their independence and as such, resorted to acts which could be considered as acts of terrorism.

"Nevertheless, it is wrong to commit suicide bombings," he said when commenting on a statement by PAS acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang that Islam permitted suicide bombing in the fight against oppression.

Hadi said the actions of Palestinians

in their fight against the Israeli regime were acts of martyrdom.

Asked whether he agreed with Hadi on this matter, Dr Mahathir said, "I don't."

"It showed that PAS' stand is that it is quite prepared to support the bombing of civilians.

"Fighting is one thing, but if you go onboard a school bus and kill all the schoolchildren, I don't think it is a brave move," he told reporters after chairing the Barisan Nasional supreme council meeting at Menara Datuk Onn.

Dr Mahathir said the root cause of the Palestinian problem was not religious but that of territory.

"Firstly, you take Palestinian land and create the state of Israel. Then, you chase out the Palestinians from their

homes and farms, so much so they are now refugees. Thirdly, the Israelis occupying the territory of the Palestinians and build their settlements there," he said, adding that unless these issues were solved, it would be very difficult to persuade Hamas not to take up violence.

Dr Mahathir said the United Nations should solve the problem but doubted that it could do much unless the major powers honoured their words.

Asked to comment on PAS' decision to form a shadow cabinet, Dr Mahathir said: "They also have a shadow budget. Of course they can ... (but) funded by others."

He said PAS did not even have the ability to supply treated water in Kelantan and Terengganu, but were thinking of running the country.