

# PM: Fight smart

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged Muslims to use their brains and not only brawn to fight their enemies and regain the religion's dignity.

He said the West is beginning to make mistakes because it has become arrogant with power and success.

"Arrogant people, like angry people, will forget to think. There may be windows of opportunity for us (Muslims) now and in the future which we must seize," he said.

In his address after his election as the 10th

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Organisation of Islamic Conference chairman at the Putrajaya Convention Centre yesterday, Mahathir said: "We must get our acts right. Rhetoric is good. It helps us to expose wrongs perpetrated against us, perhaps win us some sympathy and support.

"It may strengthen our spirit, our will and resolve, to face the enemy."

Citing the past 50 years of fighting in Palestine, Mahathir said: "The angry wants to send more young men and women to make the supreme sacrifice.

"But where will all these lead to? Certainly not victory ... we have not achieved any result (and) we have in fact worsened the situation."

Referring to the Jews, he said Muslims were up against people who think; people who survived 2,000 years of pogroms not by hitting back, but by thinking.

They invented and successfully promoted socialism, communism, human rights and democracy so that persecuting them would appear to be wrong, so they may enjoy equal rights with others, Mahathir said.

**"If we are to recover our dignity and that of Islam, it is we who must decide and act."**

He said they have now gained control of the most powerful countries and they, "this tiny community, have become a world power".

"We cannot fight them through brawn alone. We must also use our brains."

"It is an exercise in futility to condemn the detractors and oppressors of Muslim and Islam," he said, adding they (the West) are not going to change their attitudes just because we condemn them.

"If we are to recover our dignity and that of Islam, it is we who must decide and act."

He said 1.3 billion Muslims who make up a sixth of the world's population, cannot be defeated by a few million Jews.

"The Europeans killed six million Jews out of 12 million. But today the Jews rule this world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them.

"It is surely time that we pause and think. If we had paused to think, then we could have devised a plan, a strategy that can win us final victory."

Mahathir said pausing and thinking calmly is not a waste of time as "we have a need to make a strategic retreat and to calmly assess the situation".

He said Muslims may not be able to unite fully but may be able to get all the Muslim governments to act in concert.

He said even if a third of the ummah and a third of the Muslim states act together, something can be done.