

Pak Lah: Dr M not anti-Jew

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Western news agencies had deliberately selected certain quotes from the Prime Minister's opening speech of the OIC Summit and presented them in a way that portrayed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as anti-Semitic.

"Apparently, they had failed to understand that Dr Mahathir was only telling the Muslims that they can also be as advanced as others if they know how to use their brainpower," the Deputy Prime Minister said when

commenting on wire reports that Dr Mahathir had called Muslims to be united against the Jews who were ruling the world by proxy.

"He was just telling the Muslims about the lessons they could learn on how the Jews could survive 2,000 years of pogroms, not by hitting back but by thinking," Abdullah told reporters at the end of bilateral talks with nine heads of governments who attended the summit, which ended yesterday.

"Dr Mahathir is not anti-Jew. He

only pointed out things that had happened and what he saw. In fact, he was actually criticising the Muslims," said Abdullah.

He said Muslims should not expect others to help them but should instead use their brainpower to develop their own economies.

"We should not be distracted by the comments of people who dislike us. Dr Mahathir gave us a lot of good ideas and it is important for us to just concentrate on what we want to do to improve ourselves," said Abdullah.