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Include non-Muslims in activities, Muslims told

LANGKAWI, Thurs. - Muslims in the country should continue to include non-Muslim friends in their activities as this would show to the world that the religion promotes peace and good neighbourliness, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir said inviting non-Muslims for buka puasa would help promote understanding among the non-Muslims.

"Even though they do not fast, they can still eat with us and this will help them to know a bit of the religion, that we do not have any strange practices."

He said non-Muslims did not feel strange when they were invited to attend the breaking of fast, even at mosques.

Dr Mahathir said this before breaking fast with 1,000 people at the Masjid Lama Ulu Melaka tonight.

Present were his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Agriculture Ministry's parliamentary secretary and Langkawi MP Datuk Abu Bakar Taib.

Later, Dr Siti Hasmah handed out clothes and cash to 16 widows and senior citizens.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir, who was on his first trip to Langkawi after his retirement last month, went on a whirlwind trip inspecting the various development projects on the island.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah will spend the night at Tok Senik Resort before leaving for Alor Star tomorrow to attend the breaking of fast at Masjid Bandar Darulaman.