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OIC has resources to free Muslims

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PUTRAJAYA, Sat. - The Organisation of Islamic Conference has the resources and capability to free Muslims from oppression and discrimination, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said only the OIC, which groups 57 Islamic nations, could change the fate of Muslims as it was a powerful organisation.

Dr Mahathir, who will chair the 10th OIC Summit later this month, said it was solely up to the organisation to decide on the future of the Muslim ummah.

"OIC members are not poor. We have very rich nations, and with a population of 1.3 billion and strategic materials, the OIC can do a lot," he said at a Press conference at the Putrajaya Convention Centre after witnessing a "dry-run" for the summit.

Asked how the OIC could react to the discriminatory policies of the world powers in conflicts involving Muslims, he said the OIC could either choose to act positively or continue with its traditional deliberations, which did not lead to any solution.

"We can deliberate, but we won't get anywhere. I'm not interested in blaming others. I'm interested in only what we can do for ourselves. Blaming others doesn't get us anywhere."

Dr Mahathir had stated earlier that with assets exceeding US\$200 billion (RM760 billion), OIC countries have the resources to become a cohesive and dynamic emerging economic power.

On preparations for the summit, Dr Mahathir said all the personnel involved were ready.

On another issue, Dr Mahathir said that Pas' allegation that the brand of Islam championed by the Government was "cloned" should be ignored as it was another form of slander by the Opposition party.