

Dr M singles out Prophet Muhammad as a great leader

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PUTRAJAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday Prophet Muhammad was the most impressive leader in history for his ability to transform an ignorant group of people and make them part of a great Islamic empire.

"He was able to change them into a great people with the greatest civilisation in the history of mankind," said the former prime minister who led Malaysia for over two decades.

"If you learn about his struggles and difficulties, then you'll be able to appreciate his success," he said during a question-and-answer session with a delegation from the Islamic Development Bank who called on him at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here.

Earlier, he spoke at length on leadership. When asked which current world leaders impressed him most, he replied there were none.

"At present, I can't find one yet. But I respect above all

(former South African President) Nelson Mandela. When he came out after being jailed for 26 years, everybody expected him to be bitter and broken. But he was neither," he said.

Instead, he said, Mandela even met his jailers later on and worked hard to build a strong and peaceful country.

In highlighting the qualities needed in a leader, Dr Mahathir said the person must be dedicated, knowledgeable, corruption-free and not interested only in him or herself.

"We need not only good leaders but also a civil service which can implement orders well," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the foundation, of which he is honorary president, was willing to impart knowledge on leadership to Muslim countries.

He also spoke on the need to criminalise war as civilised human beings should not kill people to resolve problems. —

— Bernama



Dr Mahathir listens carefully to a question during the dialogue with an IDB delegation.