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# ' K E E P Y O U R W O R D '

## Dr M takes Obama to task for not resolving Arab-Israeli conflict

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**KUALALUMPUR:** Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad this morning expressed his dissatisfaction with US President Barack Obama for failing to keep his promise to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"He has made a lot of promises during his election campaign in the past but he has failed to fulfil them.

"He has promised to get out of Afghanistan but he has not done so. He has even promised to close down Guantanamo Bay (detention centre for suspected terrorists) but yet he has not done so."

Dr Mahathir, however, said there were forces that were preventing Obama from doing something on the issue. "One of the 'forces' are the Jewish people."

Dr Mahathir said Obama has a second term as the US President but in his next term, the people might not take him for his word that he would be committed in resolving the issues.

On another matter, the former PM said the controversial book on himself, *Malaysian Maverick: Mahathir Mohamad in Turbulent Times*, by Barry Wain is "a fantastic book which everyone should read".

"In my 22 years as PM, I did not do anything right at all. The whole book is a series of wrong things which were done by me. But it's OK because he (Wain) is blind and he can't see."

When asked if he would take legal action against Wain, he said it was a "waste of time" and that "I will

not gain the satisfaction from doing so".

"I have met him before, and he had asked nice and relevant questions then, but he did not ask me about matters he wanted to write about in his book which were written in a nasty way," he said, adding that it was Wain's basic journalistic freedom to do so.

On the recent spate of church bombings, Dr Mahathir said the inter-faith council is a good place to reason out things.

He said people should not take matters to the streets and sensitive matters should not be discussed in public.

On Information Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim's stand that Malaysians, especially Muslims, must avoid being totally immersed in the Internet culture, especially the Facebook and Twitter online social network sites, Dr Mahathir said as a blogger, he would like people to read blogs, but said that "the government has its own agenda at the end of the day".

Dr Mahathir was speaking at the General Conference for the Support of Al-Quds where he gave a keynote address. The two-day conference is held at the Crowne Plaza Mutiara.

In his speech, he said: "We live in a world that is only partially civilised. I say this because we still believe the only way to solve conflicts between nations is to kill people in what is called 'war'."

Dr Mahathir criticised the US for blatantly disregarding the rule of law and justice for what is happening in Palestine.

He said it is not wrong for the Palestinians to want back their country, and whatever they have been doing is natural for them to feel and act as it is all about their country.



DR MAHATHIR: He (Obama) has made a lot of promises during his election campaign but he has failed to fulfil them