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Dr M: Killing of Osama uncivilised

PUTRAJAYA: Killing al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was not the way to enforce the law, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Perdana Global Peace Foundation founder and president, called the raid by the United States army uncivilised, even though Osama was guilty of terrorism.

He said that if the US army had the chance to catch him, then they should have nabbed him instead of storming in and killing Osama who was reportedly unarmed at that time.

"This could lead to more people getting angry and may result in more acts of violence.

"It is not the way to curb violence," he said, calling the assault by the Americans an act of revenge for the Sept 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

On that day, al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked planes before crashing into the twin towers in New York as well as the Pentagon in Wash-

ington and causing a plane crash in Pennsylvania, killing nearly 3,000. Osama was named as the mastermind behind the attacks.

Dr Mahathir said this after handing out prizes to the winners of the Perdana Leadership Foundation-MPH Essay Competition 2010.

He said that while the terrorist organisation may lie low for a while as they were without a leader, he warned that "angry people would react".

On a separate matter, Dr Mahathir said it was "obvious" that if MCA were to lose in the next general election, none of its members could be selected for a minister's post.

"If the Barisan Nasional wins, you cannot expect the coalition to elect a DAP man as a minister. That is illogical," he said, when asked to comment on a statement by MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek that the party would not accept any post in the federal and state governments if it fared worse in the 13th general election than it did in the 2008 polls.