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Dr M: Be guided by the Quran to avoid any split

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malays must be guided by the Quran as a way of life to avoid a split despite different political ideologies, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Since the Quran emphasises Muslim brotherhood, the Malays must build a civilisation based on the Quran and hadis.

"In Arab countries, not all Arabs are Muslims but in Malaysia, the Malays must be Muslims. Malays must strive to become a progressive race and learn from the Japanese, Koreans or Chinese," he said at the Malay Civilisation Based On Islamic Civilisation Forum at Parliament house yesterday.

Also on the panel at the forum organised by the Malay Consultative Council were former chief justice Tun Abdul Hamid Mohamad and corporate figure Tan Sri Muhammad Ali Hashim.

Dr Mahathir said if the Malays wanted to build a civilisation based on Islam, they must have a clear understanding of the religion.

"I am confident that if we make Islam a way of life, the Malays will dominate science and invent tools rather than become mere consumers."

He said a Malay Islamic civilisation should be created to defend the Muslim population by mastering various fields of knowledge.

"The Malays must not be split as it is not mentioned in Islam. When we have the power, use that power well, do not oppress and defend Islam against its enemies."

Hamid said Malays should not become a race of missed opportunities and must be involved in socio-economic development.

"The Arabs had many leaders but now they are incapable of leading. Instead, the Malays have quietly built their civilisation based on Islamic principles."

He said this challenge awaits the 18 million Malays who are the prime movers of economic, social and religion in this country.

"Malays must strive to become a progressive race and learn

from the Japanese, Koreans or Chinese."

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad
former prime minister