

**Islam Tarnished When Used For Worldly Politics, Says Mahathir
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Islam in this country has been tarnished and faith in the religion being eroded as Islam has been used to serve worldly political interests.

He said the religion had not been able to ward off the onslaught by politicians who created new conditions for Islam in the interest of worldly politics that they were after.

"As these conditions and interpretations are not found in the Quran and valid hadith or in religious books written by the reputable ulama of yore, the majority of Muslims reject these conditions.

"As a result, the Malay-Muslims are divided into two groups who are enemies with each other," he said in his latest entry titled "Malay Muslims" in his blog, www.chedet.cc.

Dr Mahathir said because the Malay Muslims in this country were so divided now, there arose the two-imam at prayer phenomenon, forbidden marriage between members and supporters of opposing Malay Muslim political parties, and having separate cemeteries.

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