

Make passion for knowledge a way of life, Dr M urges Muslim students

PUTRAJAYA: Muslims should strive to become a source of knowledge, instead of remaining the end user, and offer an alternative to Western ideologies.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Western theories and ideas dominated the world in terms of economics, politics and communications but there were times when its schools of thought failed to deliver the best solutions.

"Because we are so tied up with these Western philosophies, the world is faced with moral, social, political and economic crises. We have begun to feel that what we have inherited and what is taught in Islam is not appropriate and outdated.

"We even feel lowly when faced with theories and thoughts from the West, although theirs are not religion-based."

Dr Mahathir was addressing more than 500 Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (Usim) students after receiving an honorary doctorate in economic philosophy and Muamalat administration, here, yesterday.

Also present were Tunku Ampuan Najihah Tunku Besar Burhanuddin (the consort of the late Yang di-Pertuan Besar Tuanku Ja'afar Tuanku Abdul Rahman), who is also Usim Chancellor, and Usim chairman Tan Sri Dr Mohamad Yusof Md Noor.

Dr Mahathir said that to come up with an alternative solution to the global crisis, the community needed more thinkers and idea generators



Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia Chancellor Tunku Ampuan Najihah Tunku Besar Burhanuddin conferring an honorary doctorate in economic philosophy and Muamalat administration on former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday. — NST picture by Izhari Ariffin

and this was where universities could play a role.

He encouraged Muslims, especially those who were students in higher learning institutions, to make passion for knowledge, exploration and

continuous research a part of their lives.

"When these passions fade or are lost, Muslims will be backward and be left out and, in the end, we will be colonised by others," he said, point-

ing out that Muslim scholars in the glory days of the Islamic civilisation had been dedicated in their pursuit of knowledge, to the point that non-Muslims respected and deferred to their views.