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Defending the right to speak up

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MANY people may not like this. They say the less we talk about this subject, in particular this person, the better it will be for the eventual recovery of our currency and the stock market.

I, too, believe there is wisdom in this line of thinking. We must forget or, at the very least, say less of this person and move on with the task of implementing the more tangible things needed to strengthen our economic foundation.

So, I will not mention this person's name, as I am sure all readers know whom I am referring to.

But to completely shut up, as some had suggested, for fear that this person and the likes of him will gang up against us is to accept defeat when the battle is not yet over.

Even if it is true that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had used a few debatably acrid words to describe this person and made some decisions regarding the ringgit and the stock market which he later reversed, is it wrong for someone to come to his defence when his accuser described him as a menace to his own country?

Serves Dr Mahathir right, some had said, for talking too much. But Dr Mahathir had done as much tangible things for this country as he did talking. So, let us not be too hasty to tell him to shut up or to write him off.

I am not saying this because he needs defending or because I have been "instructed" to do so.

If he needs defending, I am the least likely candidate to be called upon to do the job. Dr Mahathir has at his disposal his deputy, his Cabinet, his party (Umno), his party's Youth and Wanita wings, and a whole lot of other people who have benefited greatly from his years of leadership.