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Leaders judged by their deeds

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IT is not unusual these days to hear important people whining that their many good deeds received less attention than the few mistakes they made.

Very often too, they would accuse others of going overboard in criticising their mistakes to the extent that the good things they did were forgotten.

They would sometimes insinuate that the critics have a hidden agenda such as a vendetta or are being outrightly malicious.

But if we examine these allegations rationally, we will find that very few have any of these elements.

Take the case of the Cabinet-ordered probe into the clearing and levelling of a hilly area in Hulu Klang.

What hidden agenda or conspiracy could there be when the Press statement regarding the order was made by a Minister?

It was the Housing and Local Government Minister, Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, who revealed this to the Press after the March 25 Cabinet meeting.

And what vendetta can there be when the matter was brought to the attention of the Cabinet by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, himself after he noticed the activities while flying over the area in a helicopter a week earlier?

Had the Cabinet not wanted this to be known to the Press, it would have instructed the Minister to keep the matter confidential.

It is recalled that the Cabinet also went public when it ordered the probe into the hill cutting at Mimaland just over a year ago.

Perhaps, it is wiser for the people and authorities caught with their pants down by the latest Cabinet instruction to examine themselves. Just for a moment, ponder the possibility that something not quite right had taken place in the approving and supervising of the project.

For instance, it must be asked as to why no action was taken against the developer, which is linked to the KLSE-listed Larut Consolidated Bhd, despite it having ignored several letters from the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council until the Cabinet intervened.