

Toffler: I have not quit MSC advisory panel

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KUALA LUMPUR: Noted futurist and author Alvin Toffler denied press reports he has resigned from the Multimedia Super Corridor's International Advisory Panel (IAP).

In a statement sent to *The Star* via e-mail yesterday, Toffler said that although he had sharply criticised the imprisonment of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Dr Munawar Anees, he remained a member of the IAP.

"I have not yet formally resigned from the IAP," Toffler said.

However, he added that "if Anwar and (Munawar) Anees are not released unharmed as soon as possible, I will resign as, I suspect, will other members of the panel on whose investments the project depends."

Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah told *The Star* last week that no other IAP member had expressed any intention to resign.

According to AFP last week, the *Far Eastern*

Economic Review reported that Toffler and Dr Kenichi Ohmae, principal consultant to the MSC project, had both resigned from the IAP to protest against the treatment of Anwar.

Ohmae has, however, confirmed that he is still a member of the IAP.

In the *Los Angeles Times Syndicate* last month, Toffler said he sent a letter to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sept 18 expressing his concerns over the treatment of Anwar and Munawar.

According to Toffler, Dr Mahathir replied with a letter dated Sept 22, in which he asked Toffler to "let the process of law follow its course and then judge me and my country."

In his statement to *The Star*, Toffler said Dr Mahathir also pointed out that the MSC was a purely business matter and had nothing to do with politics.

"I do not agree," Toffler said, arguing that "the cyberlaws that he (Dr Mahathir) promised investors are, in fact, clearly political."