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Give PM full support in tackling problems

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AT this critical point with the economic problem sweeping the region, it is crucial that all Malaysians give Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad their full support in steering the country out of troubled waters.

He is the man who has brought development to the country in preparation for the next millennium.

In good times, everyone praised and honoured him. Besides being highly respected and adored in the country, the many awards conferred on him by various Governments and institutions are clear evidence of the recognition accorded to him as an international leader who has spoken out for developing nations.

In bad times, are we going to forget his past achievements?

Have we so easily forgotten how everyone of us has benefited collectively and personally from this man's efforts?

Loyalty and friendship should last through good times and bad times.

Support for the Prime Minister and his leadership, solidarity and unity have ensured political stability in our country. It is this political stability that has allowed Malaysia to thrive for the past four decades and that will see us through this problem.

One neighbouring country has booted out its Prime Minister, blaming its financial problems squarely on him, although there was little political stability over the past decade, before he took office.

During the weeks of political turmoil leading to his departure, the country's currency fell and it hasn't stopped sliding after he had left office.

Another country, which has been experiencing political instability for years and recently headed for a change of government, took a severe crash that no one would have dreamt could happen to such a large economy.

Then, there is a southern neighbour which is relatively stable but now teetering in face of threats from within which are undermining its political instability.

Clearly, political stability is crucial at this time. Loyalty and faith in our Prime Minister are important in achieving it. Do not fall prey to certain media that is quick to blame anyone for the region's problems. Can he by his words alone bring down the economies of Asia? Such a view is preposterous.

If outspokenness is the issue here, then it is a virtue that must be defended. If the lack of prudence in borrowing is the point of contention, then it is a major lesson for all the affected Asian countries and a question mark for the foreign banks which have been happily dishing out loans by the billions.

One wonders what the difference is between loan sharks and such bankers - so ready to lend, yet in such a hurry to seek repayment. And when you default, they confiscate your assets. There are always two sides to a story.

Dr Mahathir will see us through these difficult times. He is the architect and engineer of our progress. Now the doctor in him is much needed to restore the country's economy to good health. We the patients must be patient and give our full co-operation to the good doctor. We must have trust in him.