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Dr M one of greatest politicians, says Israel

PENANG, Mon. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has made Malaysia a shining example for other countries to emulate, writer, translator and journalist Israel Shamir said today.

He said Malaysia had one of the greatest politicians in the world in the Prime Minister.

"All this is attributed to the sacrifices made by one man and that is none other than the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," said Shamir in an interview at the Consumers Association of Penang headquarters in Jalan Masjid Negeri here.

Shamir, who is on a week-long visit to Penang, has written for the BBC, Pravda and translated Agnon, Joyce and Homer into Russian.

He actively pursues the idea of peace in Israel and Palestine.

"I have read what he (Dr Mahathir) wrote and he indeed, is a man of vision."

He said it was because of Dr Mahathir's vision that the various communities in Malaysia lived together in harmony.

"Your country is one of the fairest in the world. There is equality among Malays, Chinese and Indians and despite problems, all of you can still live together without any form of discrimination," he said.

"I hope my fellow countrymen will learn from you and develop my country in a more peaceful manner."