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Dr M's views sought by all

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad may be resigning in October but his views and leadership after retirement will still be much sought after, especially by other Islamic countries.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said many of his counterparts wanted the Prime Minister to visit their countries before he steps down.

"They would also like him to visit their countries even when he is no longer prime minister. They want him to give lectures and share his ideas with them."

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir was held in high esteem by many Islamic nations due to his strong leadership and firm views.

"He is accepted by all and as for Malaysia, it is one country known for its ability to speak out without fear. They feel Malaysia is capable of speaking on behalf of the OIC."

Malaysia will host the OIC Summit in Putrajaya in October, with the meeting to be chaired by Dr Mahathir. The Prime Minister is expected to step down after the summit.

Syed Hamid said the Saudi Gazette, a Saudi Arabia paper, had also advocated the OIC utilise Dr Mahathir's strong leadership.