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`He speaks his mind'

piled by Ashraf Abdullah; Shamini Darshni; Farrah Naz Karim

IN his more than 20-year tenure as Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister, right up to
Many the world over love the visionary. His words continue to be studied, anal
He has had his fair share of those who loathe him for standing up for what he
Nevertheless, his friends and foes in the global political arena alike, will g
Compiled by ASHRAF ABDULLAH, with assistance from SHAMINI DARSHNI and FARRAH N
"THE success of the deliberations is in no small way attributed to the skilful
- Guyana's Foreign Minister Samuel Hinds, on behalf of Latin America and the C
"I HAVE come here to Malaysia, to Kuala Lumpur, to express my respect and admi
- International Monetary Fund managing director Horst Koehler at a media lunch
"THERE is no doubt that Dr Mahathir's leadership has been the dynamo of this r
- Bahrain's Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa Salman Al-Khalifa on Malaysia's "mir
"NOW you have become a leading statesman on the world stage and powerful spoke
- The then Langkawi International Dialogue international steering group co-cha
"HE (Dr Mahathir) is doing everybody a great service that we have to find ways
- Franklin L. Lavin, executive director of the Asia Pacific Policy Centre, on
"PROBABLY we have forgotten the term development plan, but Malaysia has implem
- Indonesia's leading newspaper Kompas heaping praises on Dr Mahathir through
"THE region would lose a "strong, colourful personality" when Dr Mahathir step
- Asean secretary-general Ong Keng Yong on Dr Mahathir at the Asean Summit i
"THANKS to the Honourable Dr Mahathir's extraordinary and superb leadership an
- Former British minister Peter Mandelson on Dr Mahathir's leadership quoted f
"MALAYSIA has scored remarkable success in achieving social stability, ethnic
- Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing on Dr Mahathir's stewardship when addressing
"TO us in Myanmar, Dr Mahathir is more than a leader of the dynamic nation of
- Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, Chief of Myanmar's secret police (now Prime Minister)
"DR Mahathir has renowned credibility and is respected by everyone in the Thir
- Timor Leste Foreign Minister Dr Jose Ramos Horta before the start of the 13t
"ASIA needs a political leader like Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Moha
- Former Japanese Vice-Minister of Finance Prof Eisuke Sakakibara at the East
"THOSE who had said that Malaysia would sink are now the first to praise Dr Ma
- Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe speaking at the launch of the Zimbabwe As
"DR Mahathir is a great man. Whatever he says he bases it on what he feels in
- French President Jacques Chirac, July 23, 2003
"THE mark of his personal statesmanship has been imprinted so deep in our cons
- Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri as she delivered a speech to mark
"WHEN Dr Mahathir voiced his views and opinions at international forums agains
- Former Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Shridath Ramphal on Dr Mahathir in
"GIVEN his well-known views on globalisation, he can be expected to make sure
- President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa reiterating his belief that the Non-Al
"I AM a new and younger leader. So, I have no problems in admiring Dr Mahathir
- Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in an interview with New Straits Time
"I don't think he can retire. A personality like him (cannot do so) because he
- Pakistani President Gen Pervez Musharraf in an exclusive interview with the
"I PERSONALLY think Dr Mahathir is a personality of tremendous potential and s
- Pakistani President Gen Pervez Musharraf in an exclusive interview with the
"I ADMIRE the incredible accomplishment of his (Dr Mahathir's) nation under hi
- Former US President Bill Clinton, when asked what he thought of Dr Mahathir
"I AM confident Malaysia will realise your vision by the Year 2020, and that t
- Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, in a letter to Dr Mahathir offering
"IN fact, I got on rather well with Dr Mahathir and developed an increasing re
- Former British Prime Minister Lady Margaret Thatcher in her memoirs, The Dow

"IF finance ministers could be transferred like star football players, I could
- Lady Margaret Thatcher at the 'Towards Asian Leadership' in Kuala Lumpur
"I RESPECT him as a very learned person and a man of strong leadership. I have
- Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Dr Mahathir during his week-long
"DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is an old friend of China's people."
- Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, paying tribute to Dr Mahathir for his efforts to
"YOU'RE the leader. You're the one who puts ideas in place and gives operation
- Former US Secretary of State George Shultz giving credit to Dr Mahathir for
"HE is a planet which shines between the stars."
- Former Malaysian Ambassador to United Arab Emirates Datuk Syed Hussein Al-Ha
"HE has turned Malaysia into a model to be followed by the developing and Isla
- OIC assistant secretary-general Azzat Mufti at the launch of a book entitled
"HIS imprints will remain in the works and structure of OIC."
- Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohd Ezzeldin Abdel Monem, Oct 2003
"DR Mahathir had made a clarion call for Muslims to unite and avoid indulging
- Iranian President Mohammad Khatami defending Dr Mahathir from criticism that
"I'M sure many of his colleagues want to hear from him about the Malaysian exp
- Former Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku on how leaders of
"DR Mahathir was just talking about issues confronting the Muslim world and wh
- Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai on Dr Mahathir's comments during the OIC,
"MANY Japanese appreciate Dr Mahathir's wisdom, experience and leadership. He
- Japan's Ambassador to Malaysia Masaki Konishi on how the Japanese were eager
"WE welcome you as a symbol of a vibrant Asia. We admire you as a leader who h
- Former Indian President Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma describing Dr Mahathir as an
"DR Mahathir has been a longstanding supporter of the struggle for democracy b
- Reads a citation of South Africa's highest award for foreign leaders bestowe
"WE have received more than what we had asked for."
- Former South African President Nelson Mandela in thanking Dr Mahathir for hi
"DR Mahathir was very positive and constructive in his response to the problem
- African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela in expressing confide
"DESPITE my differences with him, I made more progress solving bilateral probl
- Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew said in the second volume of his me
"NO other Malaysian Prime Minister or minister had ever publicly said they had
- Lee Kuan Yew on how Dr Mahathir wanted an open and frank relationship that w
"I KNEW he was a fierce and dogged fighter. I had seen the way he had fought t
- Lee Kuan Yew on Dr Mahathir, Sept 11, 2000
"He is a recalcitrant."
- Former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, criticising Dr Mahathir for f
"DR Mahathir has turned Malaysia as an example of the continuing relevance of
- Philippine President Gloria Arroyo-Macapagal in expressing confidence that D