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Tribute to a great statesman

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I WOULD like to pay tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Dr Mahathir Mohamad who will be retiring at the end of this month after successfully steering Malaysia for 22 years.

I have had the privilege of meeting him several times. He always expressed care and concern by responding to situations with a cool head, and to people with a warm heart. He was aware of his great responsibilities as a leader and fulfilled his duties without worrying about the result, knowing that the outcome was guaranteed to bring benefit.

Dr Mahathir had an eye for spotting the qualities that make each person special. His approach to life, keeping his mind focused and his vision firm and clear, has taken him to a higher level of spiritual intelligence. He has the ability to listen, understand and empathise. His enthusiasm is infectious and steadily flows through life, which itself is a great art.

It is common for great people to face opposition and rejection and Dr Mahathir has emerged even greater through them. He remained unaffected by changing circumstances and other people's negativity, knowing that chaos always subsides and calm would prevail after the storm.

We wish Dr Mahathir a very happy and meaningful retirement.

Parting thought for reflection: A great man is known by three signs; generosity in the design, humility in the execution, moderation in success. - Bismarck