

NEW STRAITS TIMES

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# PM's speech on peace, public safety welcomed

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"We welcome his comments that the rights of all are protected, provided that promises are kept. The government should place emphasis on the Indians, to uplift those who are backward. Freedom of speech should not be curtailed."

*Datuk A. Vaithilingam  
Hindu Sangam president*



"The speech assures the people that the government will always play its part in caring for them. Those who are unhappy should do things the constitutional or legal way."

*Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Khoo Kay Kim  
historian and human rights commissioner*

"The government has taken firm action against illegal demonstrations. I support the PM's stand. We must never compromise on public safety and national security."

*Datuk Dr Maximus Ongkili  
Minister in Prime Minister's Department*

"His message is clear: we must not take peace and stability for granted. It is not such a bad thing that all the races are complaining that they do not have enough as it just means that the government has been fair to all."

*Mutang Tagal  
Unity Panel(2007-2008 session) member  
and former member of parliament*

"It was a speech from the heart. He was very sincere when he said, 'I feel more concerned about the country's stability than any of you'."

*Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam  
Transparency International Malaysia president*



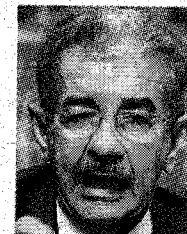
"The PM has said that there are opportunities for all as long as they are prepared to work hard. This is something we must build upon for the country's progress. We have come this far, where a lot of foreign investment has come in because of the peace and stability we enjoy."

*Tan Sri Darshan Singh  
Malaysian National Sikhs Movement president*



"Public safety is paramount by law, but we must not use that as a reason to stifle dissent. Managing public safety and public freedom is a question of balance. People want to feel safe, but we also don't want to live in a society that doesn't allow freedom of expression."

*Datuk Zaid Ibrahim  
BN Member of Parliament for Kota Baru*



"The speech illustrates the caring spirit of a true leader. Malaysians should be happy, proud and believe the sincerity of the PM."

*Datuk Moehamad Izat Emir  
Malaysian Malay Businessmen and  
Industrialists Association president*