

Newspaper	News Straits Times
Date	2/3/2012

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PRIME NEWS

# 'Dr M's letters prove govt's consistent stand'

**PALESTINIAN ISSUE:** It shows Malaysia is against Israeli atrocities, says DPM

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad's letters to three former Israeli prime ministers clearly show that the government has been consistent in not recognising the Jewish nation, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the contents of the letters also proved that Malaysia did not have any diplomatic relations with Israel and opposed the violent acts against Palestinians.

"In the letters, it was clear that Israel's policy of demolishing Palestinian homes to build its own settlements was criticised, and we asked them to stop oppressing the Palestinians.

"We can clearly see that the Barisan Nasional government has always supported an independent Palestinian state and for their rights to be respected," he said when asked to comment on the former prime minister's letters released by Wisma Putra two days ago and published by the media yesterday.

He said the government's steadfast stand on the issue was a stark contrast to Parti Keadilan Rakyat de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's statement which focused on Israel's security.

"When he was in the government and in Umno, he was with us in championing the plight of the

*"We are helping the Palestinians through various humanitarian efforts and will continue to do so as our stand on the issue is clear."*

**Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin**  
deputy prime minister



Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin being welcomed at a meet-the-people session at SM Teknik in Kuala Terengganu yesterday during his one-day visit to Terengganu. Bernama pic

his priority, without saying a word about the oppression faced by the Palestinians."

He said the government's policy on Israel had not changed under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"We are helping the Palestinians through various humanitarian efforts and will continue to do so as our stand on the issue is clear."

The letters from Dr Mahathir to

the three former Israeli prime ministers — to Yitzhak Rabin (dated Dec 21, 1993), Benjamin Netanyahu (March 14, 1997) and Ehud Barak (June 8, 1999) — were released to prove Malaysia's firm stand against Israeli atrocities.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia had always wanted the Palestinian people to have their own sovereign country, with their rights respected, and not to be treated cruelly.

Najib had said during his visit to Malacca on Feb 24 and Sekinchan in Selangor on Sunday that the government was ready to publish

several letters from Dr Mahathir to the Israeli leaders.

In **Tawau**, Bernama quoted Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman as saying that the move to disclose the letters showed the courage of the leadership in its firm stand on the Israeli regime.

"The letters prove that we have a courageous attitude and have conveyed our clear views to the Israeli regime. This also proves that the opposition likes to twist facts. It shows that the opposition is lying," he said after closing the Premier Briefing Programme yesterday.