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# 'Vote for peaceful leaders'

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**GLOBAL CALL:** Pledge to not resort to war will better the world, says Dr Mahathir

**AZURA ABAS**

PUTRAJAYA

news@nst.com.my

**F**OR peace to thrive in the world, people should reject leaders who do not uphold it, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

He called on global citizens to not vote for leaders who used force to settle disputes.

"The world is getting more democratic.

"People have the right to chose governments and leaders.

"How much better would the world be if every candidate of every election in every country gave their pledge to not resort to war in the settlement of disputes?

"If they do not make such a pledge, then, the voters of tomorrow should not elect them.

"Only then will we have governments dedicated towards peace," he said before receiving the Lifetime Campaigner for Global

Peace award from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"I am sure that if the young people are against the horrors of war and (support) the need to criminalise war and promote peace, God willing, the world will see peace instead of war."

He also spoke of global peace icon and former South African president Nelson Mandela.

"I remember the first time I met Mandela in Zambia, just after he was released from Robben Island.

"I was expecting (to meet) a broken or bitter man.

"Instead, I found a man who was extremely rational and thought of nothing, but the welfare and well-being of the people in South Africa."

Mandela was conferred the Lifetime Campaigner for Peace award and the Freedom award from the Mahathir Award for Global Peace.

South African President Jacob Zuma received the award on behalf of Mandela.