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COMMENT

Good leaders build up other people

PEOPLE OF SUBSTANCE: They celebrate received wisdom and distance themselves from evil thoughts

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GOOD leaders are from all domains. They spend their years thinking of ways and means for people, knowledge and institution building.

Metaphorically, branch by branch, feather by feather, brick by brick, they build nests of knowledge and sanctuaries for inspiration.

Through decades of work, they provide jobs for generations of employees to sustain their families from the fruits of honest labour.

They nurture the self-esteem of others as they grow to be role models in all fields.

Among their actions are the following:

THEY build the network of growth with their dilemmas; concepts;

THEY make connections and establish networks across all levels and domains of society;

THEY share knowledge and inspirational ideas;

WHILE focusing on specific members and strata of society, they are conscious of the common destiny of humanity;

THEY are strong believers in their faith and may argue regarding their beliefs, but they do not humiliate people of other faiths;

THEY have self-knowledge, criticise themselves and come to terms

with their dilemmas;

THEY are driven by ideas of virtues, goodness, justice and the pursuit of excellence;

THEY do not suffer fools, bigots, chauvinists, extremists and fanatics;

THEY recognise and celebrate collegial citizenry and human excellence; and,

THEY strive to better themselves and be with people in the circle of virtue.

Contrariwise, merchants of hate have, as

their wares, thoughts of hatred, negative emotions, threats, defen-



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(Clockwise from top left) United States President Barack Obama, former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton, Princess Diana, former British prime minister Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Mother Teresa and former US presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton are leaders who have made **lasting contributions**.

sive-supremacist tendencies, unresolved personal issues, and a host of convoluted arguments against others.

Merchants of hate are about suppression, oppression, and compulsion. Merchants of hate speak about the need for destruction before rebuilding.

Good leaders celebrate received wisdom and building on the existing good. They call for the enjoyment of good while distancing themselves from evil thoughts, harmful utterances and evil deeds. Good leaders are about inspiration and caring and making a positive difference in constructive ways.

As religious people and dramatists know, the world is

about the struggle between good and evil, the seen and unseen forces, the masks people wear — the guises people take in their persona.

Through the nature of their organisations and the gathering of forces of destruction, in persuasive public ways and in covert corners of strategic planning for dominance, hate merchants become willing or unwitting partners in the triumph of evil.

Substantive leaders have clarity and focus in drawing inspiration from role models. There is awareness that they themselves are role models.

They invite others to excel with no compulsion.

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