

# Oh, for a peaceful retirement

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It is claimed that one of the causes of environmental degradation is the size of the population of some developing countries. We dispute this assumption.

— At the United Nations Conference On Environment And Development in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, June 1992.

In a developed society, the members should no longer receive passively his cultural heritage without carefully studying the various implications of that heritage.

— At the Harvard Club dinner, July 1993.

tendency in the US to link trade with non-trade issues such as human rights issues, labour practices, the environment and economic policies. The result of scrutinising these issues is to stifle trade.

— At the United States-Asean Business Council dinner in New York, September 1993.

The laws in the West place too much priority on the individual's right that allows him to do anything he pleases even though his actions may threaten the peace and security of the society.

— At a seminar on Islam and justice, June 1993.



Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, the ever-gracious and devoted wife of the Prime Minister, talks to **NURAINA A. SAMAD** about standing by her husband through his tribulations and her hope of a quiet retirement for him.

**D**ATUK SERI DR SITI HASMAH MOHAMED Ali is looking forward to Dr Mahathir's retirement although she admits that she will miss their friends here and abroad as well as the activities she was involved in as First Lady. Still, she does not see any difficulty for her or Dr Mahathir "retiring into civilian life".  
"I know of people who found it hard to return to a 'normal life' when they no longer got special treatment and all the privileges.  
"Alhamdulillah (God willing), we have no problem with that. In fact, it will be a refreshing change. The children and grandchildren, especially, are looking forward to it," she said in an interview with the



AN UNASSUMING WOMAN: Dr Siti Hasmah with Nuraina

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**LET ME HELP:** The PM putting the participant's number on the back of Dr Siti Hasmah before the start of a walkathon organised by Bakti at Parliament House in 1990

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*New Straits Times* at her residence in Langkawi. Dr Siti Hasmah spoke of her life as First Lady and being with her husband through the darkest period of his leadership.

To her, he is a loving husband and father, a doting grandfather and a committed statesman who loves his people and country.

As a wife, she, of course, knows him intimately, yet he has kept some of the hottest secrets from her. She said she was almost always the last to know about the latest developments or happenings.

When former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was sacked, she said she only knew about it when Anwar's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail appeared at her doorstep in Seri Perdana.

When Dr Mahathir announced his retirement last July, she was as stunned as everybody else.

How does her husband take all the attacks against him by his detractors?

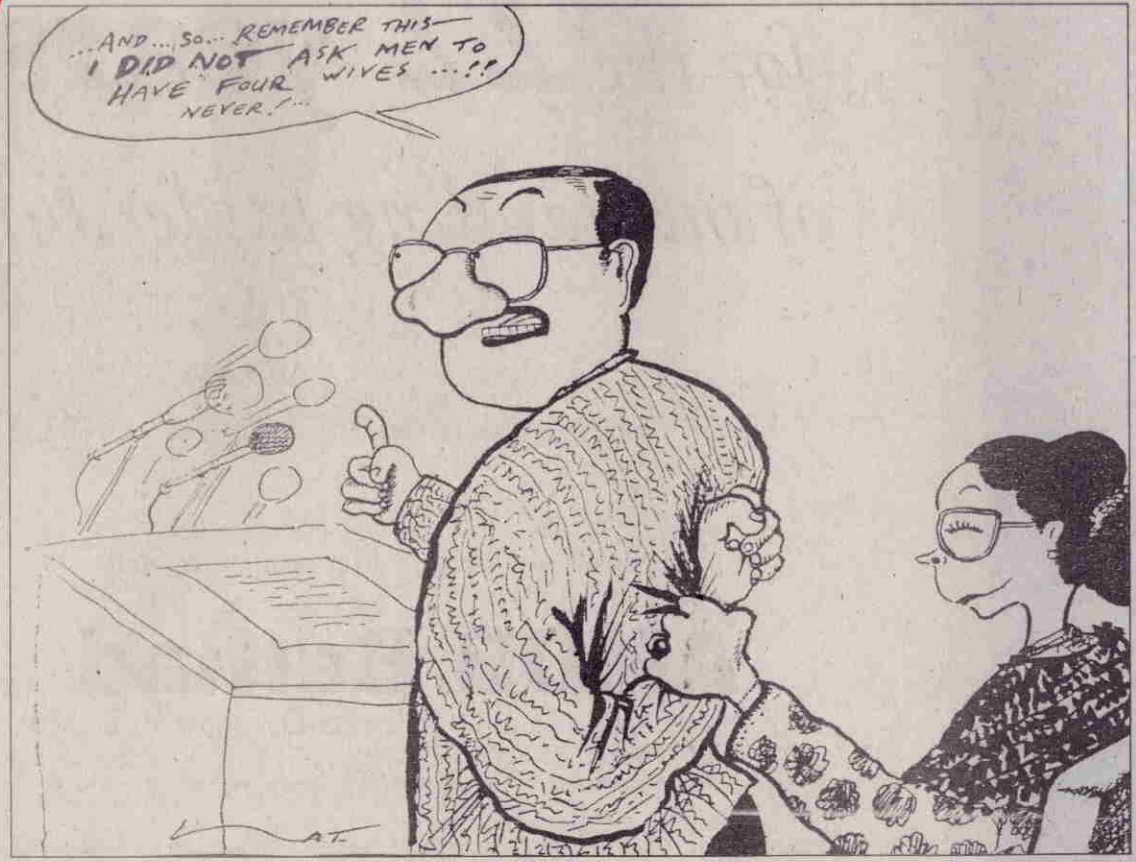
"He is strong, *Alhamdulillah*. He can ward off all these. He has a knack for dealing with these things."

Following the regional financial crisis in 1998 and just before the 1999 general election, a full-scale anti-Mahathir campaign was launched by Anwar's supporters. The campaign included attacks against Dr Mahathir's sons, especially

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**WELCOME:** Visitors wishing Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah at their Hari Raya open house in 1994



**KEEPING PACE:** Dr Mahathir having fun at the Information Ministry's Family Day in 1989. On the left is Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat