

What Malaysia has achieved in the political, economic and social fields has been exceptional. Dr Mahathir, Cuba's Fidel Castro and South Africa's Nelson Mandela can speak their minds and displease other people and those who are displeased can't do anything about it. – **Nobel Peace Laureate and Timur Leste Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Minister Dr Jose Ramos-Horta**

It is sad to see that Dr Mahathir is resigning. He has done so much for his country and the region. However, after so long in service, I can imagine that he deserves to have some time for himself. – **Timur Leste Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri**

Dr Mahathir is a close friend. – **Nelson Mandela**

Dr Mahathir is a rebel, much like myself. This is because he has a habit of speaking his mind against the injustices brought about by unfair practices of the world's powerful capitalist figures.

Dr Mahathir is a liberator because of his role in helping end apartheid in South Africa. He is like a "brother".

You belong among our liberators. None is more entitled to walk in our land as a free man than you. – **South African President Thabo Mbeki**

Dr Mahathir is the mover of the very rewarding, innovative and equity-based philosophy of smart partnerships. We recognise his unrelenting struggle to evolve an economic paradigm that responds to the development aspirations of all. He is our brother and our friend. – **Former Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings**

I admire Dr Mahathir's courage to "rebel" against an unjust international system as he endeavoured to bring Malaysia forward. The respect and prestige due to Dr Mahathir became apparent when he faced the financial

Praise from peers

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South African President Thabo Mbeki



Cuban President Fidel Castro



Pakistani President Gen Pervez Musharraf

crisis. Today, almost everyone is thankful that with Dr Mahathir's creativity, character and leadership qualities, Malaysia has become an enviable country. He is an excellent leader to have conceived such great marvels as the Twin Towers and Putrajaya – **Cuban President Fidel Castro**

Dr Mahathir is an outstanding leader who helped turn Malaysia into one of the great success stories of the second half of the (20th) century.

His critics should remember that without ambition, you achieve nothing, and great projects are what give a nation pride in itself.

I also agree with Dr Mahathir that the International Monetary Fund needs to improve its surveillance of international capital flows so that such vast and unexpected upsets (Asia's financial crisis) can be avoided in the future. – **Former British Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher**

Dr Mahathir is an excellent leader and has sacrificed a lot, not only for his country but Islam, generally. I don't think Dr Mahathir can resign. He should continue to contribute to the nation and the Muslim after his retirement as he has become public property. – **Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf**

THERE is no way of counting the things he did for Asean. Indeed, he was one of those who worked the hardest to articulate Asean's vision of itself.

The reach of his mind is so far and wide. He always had strong and informed views and never hesitated to say the unpleasant. That is why I'm fairly confident that Dr Mahathir may leave office but he will never abandon



Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri

involvement with Asean. – **Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri**

Compiled from news reports by ESTHER NG