

Global praise for Tun M

► Prime minister honoured with several accolades in first year of Pakatan administration

KUALA LUMPUR: In just a year as Malaysia's seventh prime minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been recognised as one of the world's most influential men.

In January, he was named Muslim Man of the Year by Muslim 500, a ranking of the world's 500 most influential Muslims.

In April, Mahathir was ranked among the 100 most influential individuals in the world for 2019 by *Time* magazine.

Earlier this month, international portal Fortune.com, ranked Mahathir 47th in its World's 50 Greatest Leaders list, Bernama reported.

In his speech at the 73rd United Nations general assembly in New York on Sept 29 last year, Mahathir made a bold call for a reform of the world body and suggested that a veto should not be by just one permanent member but by at least two and backed by three non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

He also captured the world's attention when he condemned the Myanmar government for the massacre of Rohingyas in Rakhine, and Israel for breaking international laws and moral codes.

Universiti Putra Malaysia Faculty of Modern Language and Communication lecturer Dr Syed Agil Alsagoff said Mahathir's thoughts and ideas had been commended by

many world leaders.

Universiti Utara Malaysia lecturer in politics and international relations, Prof Dr Azizuddin Mohd Sani, said Mahathir had been consistent in championing world issues, including those involving the Palestinians, the Rohingyas as well as developing or underdeveloped countries.

Azizuddin said Mahathir was re-elected to lead the government as the people wanted Malaysia to become a prosperous country.

"Malaysians,

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who have seen the economic prosperity he brought to Malaysia in the 1990s, believe he can do it again," he added.

