

# PM did not violate code of ethics

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not violate the Umno election code of ethics when he made the statement that Encik Ghafar Baba would remain the Deputy Prime Minister irrespective of whether he lost or won in the party election, Tan Sri Khir Johari said today.

The Umno election ethics committee chairman said he saw nothing wrong with the statement.

"Dr Mahathir was making the statement in his capacity as Prime Minister... it is his right as the Prime Minister," Tan Sri Khir said.

The Prime Minister had said on Saturday that Encik Ghafar would remain as Deputy Prime Minister even if he lost in the contest for the Umno deputy presidency against Datuk Musa Hitam in the party elections on April 24.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir today declined to comment on the statement made by former Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Harun Idris that the Umno deputy president be given first option to be appointed Deputy Prime Minister.

"I have no comment. That is his opinion. He is entitled to it," said the Prime Minister when asked by reporters after opening a seminar on Islamic management at the International Islamic University.

Datuk Harun was quoted as saying that although the final choice of a Deputy Prime Minister was the Prime Minister's decision, the latter should consider the results of the April 24 party elections, the views of the Supreme Council and the party tradition.