

# PM TELLS WHY MINISTER WAS DROPPED

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SERI GADING, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad pacified disappointed supporters of Welfare Minister Datuk Mustaffa Mohamed here today by explaining why he was not re-nominated. "I have nothing against him . . . I am not angry at or disappointed in him nor mistrust him. I told him it was the party's wish that he should not contest, and

he agreed without question. "He did not try to raise the emotions of his supporters. In fact, when they want him to continue as MP, he has kept to what we have agreed earlier," he said at the Barisan Nasional operations room here. Earlier, Datuk Mustaffa, who is the Seri Gading MP, broke down when

addressing the gathering. He said he was a "party man" and would accede to Dr Mahathir's request. "A good follower will never destroy his party for personal reasons. Going up or down in life is a natural process . . . please allow me to make an honourable exit," he said. Dr Mahathir praised Datuk Mustaffa for his courage in making a

speech that was "against the tide" and for accepting the party decision. "In an election, there will be people who are not nominated. These people should ensure they work for the person who replaced them, just like when they were helped by the person they replaced. "The sacrifice is for the party. Individuals are not

important. Our objective is to form a government that is strong," he said. Dr Mahathir said he and Datuk Mustaffa were still close friends and that the minister supported him fully when he (Dr Mahathir) was setting up the present Umno. He also said Datuk Mustaffa had served the Government well.