

Mahathir stronger than ever, says Ghafar

MALACCA, FTI.— Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad is firmly entrenched in his position as Umno president with the party divisions' unanimous support for his re-election at the general assembly on Nov 29.

Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba said today that while some Commonwealth leaders were on their way out, Dr Mahathir was "stronger than ever" in his position as party president.

At a Friday congregation at Masjid Kampung Sempang, the party's deputy president said "no less than four Commonwealth Prime Ministers have fallen since the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kuala Lumpur last year."

"But Dr Mahathir's position as Prime Minister and Umno president is stronger than ever. In the recent

general election, the Barisan Nasional was returned with a two-third majority.

"Such a victory is uncommon in many other countries. And in an equally significant party election, we now find that Umno has unanimously picked Dr Mahathir again to lead.

"There is no doubt the Prime Minister's position is solid," said Encik Ghafar who is also the Deputy Prime Minister.

He said he remembered India's Rajiv Ghandi, Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto and Britain's Mrs Margaret Thatcher, all of whom attended the CHOGM.

"But they have all now fallen. The rise and fall of a leader means a lot to a country and can determine its course and its future."

He told reporters later that Umno members were good at choosing their leaders.