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LEAD Umno - Sabah (replaces earlier item, with deletion and corrections) '''

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LANGKAWI, Feb 14<sup>9/</sup> (Bernama) -- Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the confusion over the appointment of Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba as Sabah Umno Liaison Committee head has been cleared following a meeting with Tun Datu Haji Mustapha Harun in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The Prime Minister said he explained the actual situation to Tun Datu Mustapha.

The confusion, he said, had arisen out of a misunderstanding.

+I am convinced that Tun Datu Mustapha understands the matter now and accepts it wholeheartedly,+ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir told reporters here.

He said Encik Ghafar was appointed to head Sabah Umno temporarily and once the process of setting up Sabah Umno was completed, someone from the state would be appointed to head it.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir suspected that the confusion over Encik Ghafar's appointment was created by certain people who were out to obstruct Umno going to Sabah. -- more

LEAD Umno - Sabah 2 Langkawi '''

On the Umno memorandum over the appointment of Encik Ghafar and the setting up of Sabah Umno, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the memorandum was handed over by Umno Deputy President Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai to Encik Ghafar.

+I don't know the contents of the memorandum,+ he said.

Replying to a question from a reporter, the Prime Minister said it was not true that the Kedah Cement Factory at Teluk Ewa, owned by the Kedah State Economic Development Corporation, had been sold to a subsidiary of Kuok Brothers.

The cement factory would actually be reorganised with the corporation still holding interest in it, he added. -- more

LEAD Umno - Sabah 3 Langkawi '''

In KOTA KINABALU, Tun Datu Mustapha also said the issue over Encik Ghafar's appointment as Sabah Umno head had been resolved.

He said that he had received a clear explanation on the matter from the Prime Minister as well as Umno Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat.

Speaking to reporters on his arrival at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport from Kuala Lumpur, he said a Sabahan would head the State Umno once the branch and divisional elections were completed.

Umno branch committees would be elected in Sabah in June and divisional committees in August.

Tun Datu Mustapha also said all 20 members of the Sabah Umno Protem Committee were from Umno.

He said it was not true that six places in the committee had been reserved for those outside Umno. -- more

