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Mahathir-Ghafar

MAHATHIR DISMISSES SPECULATION THAT GHAFAR WILL RESIGN

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- ⁹³ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Encik Ghafar Baba had not expressed any intention to resign as deputy prime minister.

The prime minister told reporters this after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Asked whether the meeting had discussed Ghafar's resignation, he said jokingly: "You want to write a book? You can write anything."

Ghafar, who is also Umno deputy president, was absent from the press conference. Present were vice-presidents Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and Umno Youth leader Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Dr Mahathir said Ghafar was there earlier but had excused himself because he had business to attend to. -- more

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Mahathir-Ghafar 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

When asked whether several ministers would join Ghafar in resigning, Dr Mahathir said: "Who are they, please let me know. You have more news than I have, why do you ask me? I should be asking you what the news is."

He also said that Umno was deciding on the candidate to put up for the Batu Palam state by-election and the party's election machinery was ready to go into action.

On the recent visits of the president of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yasser Arafat and African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela to Malaysia, he said the two leaders gave detailed accounts of what had actually happened in West Asia and South Africa and sought Malaysia's support for their struggles.

"We have a better understanding of what had happened after their accounts because we know that reports in the press are normally inaccurate, based on guesswork and biased," he said. -- Bernama

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▼05/08/16-45MS*