

S 24 AUG 1993
PM: Plan
parks (p)
with care

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants careful planning of the city's limited land resources to provide for more recreational parks.

He said parks must be designed so that the people could enjoy the beauty and ease their minds and also be able to foster racial interaction.

"By the year 2020, it is estimated that 70 per cent of the population will be in towns," he said when opening Public Bank's Vision Park in Jalan Sultan Sulaiman.

Also present was Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali who received a cheque for RM20,000 from the bank on behalf of the Malaysian Girl Guides Society.

A video recording of the ceremony and Dr Mahathir's speech were placed in a time capsule and sealed in the foyer.

ABDUL GHAFAR BABA rose to prominence when he was recalled by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to serve as his deputy when Datuk Musa Hitam resigned in 1986.

Born in 1925, he is one of the longest serving party members in the Cabinet.

A teacher by training, Ghafar started his political career in 1946 when Umno was formed and he subsequently rose through the ranks to become the Malacca Umno secretary.

He was on the party's executive council from 1959 before elected vice-president in 1962, a post he held for 20 years.

In 1987, Ghafar was elected deputy president in a closely-fought contest with then incumbent Datuk Musa Hitam during the party crisis in that year.

Ghafar was Malacca Chief Minister from 1959-69 before becoming Land and Regional Development Minister.

He was acting prime minister in 1975 when Tun Hussein Onn, then acting prime minister, was away.

It was during this period that Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein died in London.

During the period when he was out of the Government, Ghafar was actively involved in business.

DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM's entry into Umno was considered a major coup by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and he rose rapidly in the party.

A Malay literature graduate, he had his first taste of politics in the late 1960s as a student leader in Universiti Malaya.

On graduation, Anwar became the president of the Malaysian Youth Council (1972-76) and president of Abim (Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement) from 1974 until he joined Umno in 1982.

He was elected member of parliament for Permatang Pauh in the 1982 general election and was appointed deputy minister in the PM's Department.

This marked the rapid rise of the former student leader when in 1983, he was appointed Culture, Youth and Sports Minister, a portfolio he held for slightly more than a year.

Between July 1984 and May 1986, he was Agriculture Minister; Education Minister between 1986 and 1991 and his subsequent appointment as Finance Minister in 1991.

He wrested the Umno Youth chief's post in 1982 and retained it in the 1986 elections.

In 1987, he was elected vice-president. In 1990, he retained the post, receiving the most votes.