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Mahathir-Sabah

MAHATHIR SAYS HE HAS NOT RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT GHAFAR ALLEGATION

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept. 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he had yet to receive any information on the allegation that Sabah UMNO delegates were prevented from nominating Ghafar Baba for the post of Deputy President.

"If it is true, I feel very sad," the Prime Minister told reporters after opening the Commonwealth Forestry Conference at the Shangri-La Hotel here.

Dr Mahathir, who is UMNO President, was asked to comment on Ghafar's statement yesterday that his supporters were not given the chance to propose his name during the divisional delegates meetings.

Thirteen of the 20 divisions in Sabah which have held their meetings nominated Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for the deputy presidency.

Ghafar, who is Deputy Prime Minister, said he received reports that the permanent chairmen at the meetings prevented delegates from proposing his name by closing nominations immediately after Anwar's name was proposed. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said if he received firm information on the matter action could be taken.

Anwar, an UMNO vice president has been nominated for the post by 81 of the 87 UMNO divisions which have held their meetings since Thursday while Ghafar, the incumbent, got only six nominations.

The rest of the 153 divisions were scheduled to complete their meetings by Sept. 30.

Dr Mahathir hoped the delegates meetings would proceed without any tension.

So far, he said, the meetings that had been held were "not that bad" although some were a bit tense. -- Bernama

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