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DON'T BRING UP THE ISSUE NOW, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the question of appointing Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba senior minister should not have been brought up at this time.

"We have not yet come to that stage," the Prime Minister said after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting here.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, was asked to comment on the suggestion made by several Umno leaders.

Among them were Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Batu Umno division head Datuk Azman Atar Othman.

They said the appointment would enable Ghafar to continue to serve the government and Umno.

Dr Mahathir said he did not see why there should be any such proposal at the moment.

Ghafar is trailing far behind Finance Minister Daruk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in nominations to contest the post of Deputy President in the party elections in November. -- Bernama

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