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Mahathir-Ghafar

GHAFAR'S RESIGNATION FROM CABINET POSTS TOOK AUTOMATIC EFFECT ON OCT.15

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 29⁹³ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Ghafar Baba's resignation as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural Development took automatic effect on Oct.15.

That was the date when Ghafar's letter resigning from the two posts was submitted by his Private Secretary Aziz Khalipah to Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said it was the view of the Attorney-general Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman that the resignation of a Deputy Prime Minister and other ministers did not require acknowledgement of acceptance or rejection by the Prime Minister.

"As such, I cannot say I do not accept (the resignation by Ghafar)," he told reporters at Parliament House here.

Dr Mahathir was asked if he had met Ghafar regarding the latter's resignation because he had said in Cyprus, where he was attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, that he would meet Ghafar on his return. -- more

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Mahathir-Ghafar 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He said he had yet to meet Ghafar regarding the latter's resignation from the Cabinet.

However, the Attorney-General's view meant that the resignation from both posts was official with automatic effect.

Ghafar was absent from the Dewan Rakyat when Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim tabled the 1994 national budget today.

Other ministers who were absent were Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Sabah Affairs Minister Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and Education Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Haji Daud.

Dr Mahathir, who is UMNO President, also confirmed receiving Tun Mustapha's letter resigning as Deputy chairman of the Sabah UMNO Liaison Committee today.

He said he had yet to give any thought to the matter. -- Bernama

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