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Mahathir-Ghafar

MAHATHIR SAYS HE IS INDEBTED TO GHAFAR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov. 4 (Bernama) -- ⁹³ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed his gratitude to former Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba for his services and contributions to UMNO and the government.

He was saddened by Ghafar's decision to relinquish all his posts in the government and party after having contributed his energy and ideas for so long.

"On my part and on behalf of the UMNO Supreme Council and all the party members, I wish to express heartfelt thanks to Encik Ghafar for his services and contributions," Dr Mahathir said when opening the UMNO General Assembly here.

His appreciation for Ghafar was apparent in his hour-long speech.

Ghafar resigned from the posts of Deputy Prime Minister and Rural Development Minister on Oct. 15 and Barisan Nasional Secretary-General on Oct. 25.

He resigned as UMNO deputy president and at the same time declined to seek reelection on Oct. 30. Earlier, he resigned from the post of Sabah UMNO liaison committee chairman. -- more

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Mahathir-Ghafar 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Ghafar made the decision after having obtained only seven nominations from the 153 UMNO divisions for the deputy president's post compared with 145 nominations received by his challenger Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Dr Mahathir said that Ghafar had contributed his energy and ideas to the party since it was formed and had held the post of UMNO vice president for 25 years, a record for any leader.

He later held the post of deputy president.

"I am greatly indebted to Ghafar for being prepared to assume the post of deputy prime minister when Datuk Musa Hitam resigned from the post in 1986," he added.

He said that Ghafar's support and cooperation had helped him and the party to overcome UMNO's crisis and when it was declared unlawful in 1988.

-- Dr Mahathir then prayed that Ghafar would be successful in all his future undertakings. -- Bernama

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