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MAHATHIR TAKES CHARGE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

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PETALING JAYA, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is taking charge of the rural development portfolio held by Encik Ghafar Baba who resigned from the Cabinet last month.

He said there was no problem in the matter as the Cabinet worked as a team.

Dr Mahathir was asked by reporters when he would fill the posts of deputy prime minister and minister of rural development last held by Ghafar.

"I still have much time. I do not have to rush," he said after he had opened the 13th annual delegates meeting of the Koperasi Usaha Bersatu (KUB) in Subang Jaya near here.

Ghafar had also resigned as Umno deputy president, paving the way for Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to be returned unopposed as the new deputy president of the party.

Replying to another question, Dr Mahathir said he had not met Ghafar after the Umno general assembly early this month.

He said Ghafar was overseas and that he hoped to meet the former deputy prime minister on his return soon. -- Bernama

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▼20/11/15-36MST