

13 JUN 1998

Ghafar-Ministers

BE UNITED IN FACING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, SAYS FORMER DEPUTY PM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 13 (Bernama) -- Former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba today advised cabinet ministers to be united in facing problems especially during the current economic downturn.

"I call for a united stand not only from the people but also cabinet ministers," he said after leading Umno veterans in a meeting lasting more than an hour with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, here.

He said that if a minister was not happy about something the matter should be brought to the cabinet.

Once the cabinet decided on the matter, the decision should be observed by everyone, he said.

"That's collective responsibility," he said.

Ghafar said that a split at this time would only aggravate the country's economic situation.

On the meeting to find ways how Umno veterans could help the government in explaining current economic downturn to the people, he said a special committee would be set up for the purpose.

The five-member committee headed by him would hold information sessions with the people as requested by Umno headquarters, he said.

"As veterans we can help to make the kampung folks understand better issues including the current economic downturn," he said.

Some 300 Umno veterans including Umno permanent chairman Tan Sri Ninam Shah and former Kelantan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Ya'acob who is Dewan Negara President attended the meeting.

--BERNAMA

HJ ABG