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Dr M: I've not asked about Ghafar's position

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he still does not know the position of former deputy prime minister Tun Ghafar Baba, who has been declared a bankrupt, as a Member of Parliament (MP).

"I don't know. I have not asked yet (about Ghafar's position)," he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after presenting excellent service awards to staff of the Prime Minister's Department.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on Ghafar's position as MP for Jasin, Malacca, following the declaration of the High Court.

Under the Constitution, a person is disqualified as an MP if he is declared a bankrupt.

The Kuala Lumpur High Court on Tuesday declared Ghafar a bankrupt after he failed to pay RM500,000 to Pengkalen Holdings Bhd director Datuk Choong Kok Min.

Ghafar's son, Encik Mohamed Tamrin, was also declared a bankrupt by the same court for failing to pay Choong RM1.5 million.

Choong had filed bankruptcy petitions against them on January 15 when they failed to pay him RM602,464.75 and RM1,807,397.27, with interest, respectively. The bankruptcy notices were served on Tamrin on February 9 and Ghafar in March.

According to the background of the case, Tamrin's company took a loan from Citibank Bhd for which he, Choon and Ghafar stood as guarantors.

Following failure to settle the loan, a judgment was entered against Choong to pay up the bank. Choong repaid the loan and in turn sued Tamrin and Ghafar for their share of the settlement.

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