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Ghafar on the objectives of his tour around country

SEREMBAN, Sat. - Former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba said today his nationwide tour will help create awareness among the people that the economic situation in the country is not as bad as those encountered by others.

"In some countries, the people had been asked to fast for up to two days a week in an effort to save rice, while in other countries, people were asked not to eat rice every Wednesday," he said.

Ghafar said although the situation at home was not as bad, people must play their part and take the necessary steps to ensure the situation did not worsen.

He was speaking to reporters after meeting Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad at the Pusat Dakwah Islamiah in Paroi today. Also present were Umno Information Chief Datuk Dr Mohamed Yusof Noor and former Foreign Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie.

Ghafar urged the people not to view the matter lightly and to recognise their individual roles in assisting the Government.

He urged the people to rely strongly on their religious and moral beliefs and not let their confidence in the Government be swayed by outside influence.

Ghafar also dismissed rumours that his intentions in these nationwide visits were for him to gain popularity.

He said he was only doing his duties as an Umno member and merely wanted to assist Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the present economic situation.

"I cannot just sit at home and watch our Prime Minister working hard without coming out to assist him.

"I feel it is part of my duty to help my country and educate the people on the effects of the present situation and the necessary steps which could be taken to overcome it," he added.

He said riots and demonstrations would not resolve anything and instead the people must remain united to bring the country out of its present situation as soon as possible.

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