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Ghafar-Club

GHAJAR PROPOSES UMNO VETERANS' CLUB

KOTA BAHARU, May 29 (Bernama) -- Former Umno deputy president Tun Ghafar Baba has asked Umno supreme council, the party's highest policy-making body, to allow the setting up of Umno Veterans' Club to enable party veterans to contribute to national development.

He said the club would give an opportunity to the experienced party stalwarts to be active again to pursue Umno's struggles.

" Many of them feel they have been sidelined and difficult to work with the younger leaders especially at the branch level although they can still contribute to Umno," he told reporters here last night.

The former deputy prime minister was here yesterday as part of his nation-wide tour to explain to Umno members on the economic slowdown faced by the country.

Ghafar also said veteran Umno Members of Parliament could also assist the party's election machinery to campaign and win the hearts and minds of the people.

He, however, said it was up to the supreme council to discuss his proposal and if agreed, it would bring immense benefits to all.

On the economic downturn, Ghafar urged the people from all walks of life and political parties to unite so that the economy could recover quickly.

" This is the time for the people to show their love and loyalty to the country and not be swayed by ugly incidents in neighbouring countries," he said.

Asked to comment on a PAS resolution calling on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to step down due to the economic turmoil, Ghafar said the move was inappropriate as change of leaders as seen in other countries had not help to improve the economic situation.

He also said the government's move to help some financially-troubled companies was not to bail out certain individuals but was done in national interest.

-- BERNAMA

RAR HAR TS