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Ghafar-leaders

UMNO HAS NEVER BEEN DEVOID OF LEADERS- GHAFAR BABA

JELI, Kelantan, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba has said that since independence Umno has never been devoid of leaders particularly to take up the nation's helm.

Umno which was the backbone of this country's administration had produced many talented leaders, he said.

Umno had continued with its excellence in this leadership area and had produced a foremost leader in the personage of the present Prime Minister, Ghafar said.

"We need not rush into finding a replacement as it is better for Dr Mahathir (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) to continue to hold the post and his successor can be found slowly," he said after briefing the people of Kampugn Air Lanas on the country's economic slowdown yesterday.

He said as the country was experiencing an economic slowdown and in view of the current political situation the issue of finding a successor for Dr Mahathir should not be raised as the present government had shown excellence and wisdom in handling problems.

"Hence we should not be hasty...if we select someone who is not suited to their requirements of Malaysia...the people will stand to lose," he said.

Ghafar said a successor to the Prime Minister of this country was named in two ways -- by the incumbent Prime Minister himself or appointed on the advice of the Umno Supreme Council.

He said among the criteria was that the candidate for Prime Minister should have the support of all the races in the country and not just Umno as Malaysia was a multi-racial country.

-- BERNAMA

RAR WAT AAM