

31/10/2003

New seat in Dewan for Dr Mahathir

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be seated next to Tun Ghafar Baba (BN-Batu Berendam) when he becomes a Government backbencher next week.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail said the seating arrangement would be changed immediately as the House will be in session until Nov 11.

Tun Zahir, who had been Speaker since 1982, said it was the practice to seat a former prime minister among senior MPs. Dr Mahathir was elected to the Dewan Rakyat in 1964 after winning the Kota Setar seat on the Alliance (now Barisan Nasional) ticket. In 1969 he lost the seat to the late Yusof Rawa of Pas. Dr Mahathir made a comeback after winning Kubang Pasu uncontested in 1974.