

# From poverty to Deputy Prime Minister

Orphaned at 11, Tun Abdul Ghafar Baba rose from scrounging for food outside bakery shops to be Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.



1925

2006

## CHRONOLOGY

### EARLY YEARS

- Born in 1925 in Kuala Pilah, Negri Sembilan
- Obtains primary and secondary education in Malay School Tangga Batu
- Enrols at Sultan Idris Teacher Training College in Tanjung Malim, Perak

### TEACHING YEARS

- Teaches at Malay School in Pangkalan Balak, Malacca
- Masters Japanese within four months during Japanese occupation of Malaya 1941-45
- Teaches in Japanese school
- Last teaching post in Limbongan, Malacca, in 1955



### EARLY POLITICAL CAREER

- 1940: Joins Persatuan Melayu Muda in Malacca at the age of 15
- 1945: Joins Malayan Nationalist Party, which was banned in 1948 by the British
- 1951: Joins Umno
- 1955: Becomes Malacca Umno chairman until 1974
- 1955: Leaves education service to contest Legislative Council Election, wins Melaka Luar seat
- 1959-69: State Assemblyman for Tanjung Kling
- 1962: Becomes Umno supreme council member and elected vice-president, a post he held until 1987

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 1959-67: Chief Minister of Malacca
- 1969-74: MP for Melaka Utara
- 1967-69: Land and Mines Minister
- 1967-71: First chairman of Mara
- 1969-71: National and Rural Development Minister
- 1973-74: Rural Economic Development Minister
- 1974: Wins Alor Gajah parliamentary seat in general election
- 1974-76: Agriculture and Rural Development Minister
- 1976: Leaves Cabinet to venture into business. Retains MP for Alor Gajah seat, Barisan Nasional secretary-general's post
- 1978-99: MP for Jasin
- 1985: Appointed MCA caretaker chairman after party embroiled in leadership crisis. Instrumental in forming MCA's ad-hoc committee
- 1986: Helps set up Sabah Umno, remains as chairman until 1993 resignation
- 1986: Appointed Deputy Prime Minister by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad
- 1987: Wins Umno deputy presidency
- 1993: Resigns Umno deputy presidency
- 1995: Receives highest federal award, which carries title "Tun"

NST- 24/4/2006



### RECORDS

- Won all elections contested until 1999
- One of the longest-serving Cabinet ministers

