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Newspaper	The Star
Date	1 August 2015



KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hariudi is eligible for the posts of Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former prime minister said Dr Ahmad Zahid received the highest votes for the position of vice-president during the Umno polls.

"He is as eligible as anyone else," he said during a press conference after launching the Prince Court Medical Centre Liver Centre yesterday.

Dr Mahathir is the patron of the Malaysian Liver Foundation.

Dr Ahmad Zahid replaced Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in the Cabinet reshuffle announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Tuesday.

Asked to comment on Muhyiddin's removal as deputy prime minister, he said: "It is Najib's right. If he was dropped, he was dropped."

However, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians did not seem too confident in the new Cabinet, based on social media posts.

Asked whether support for Umno would be affected in Kedah if his son Datuk Seri Mukhriz lost his post as Kedah Menteri Besar as speculated, Dr Mahathir said he would not know.

"Some people might be unhappy and some might be very happy because whenever a politician loses, there is a vacancy and many people want to fill the vacancy," he said.

In his response, Dr Ahmad Zahid said Dr Mahathir should give Najib and his new Cabinet a chance to show what they are made of.