

Dr M believes Zahid a qualified deputy prime minister
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By Kc Nazari

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi is as qualified as anyone to be deputy prime minister.

Dr Mahathir said Zahid had received the highest vote in the contest for Umno vice-president at the party's last election.

"He is as eligible as anybody else. He had the highest vote as vice-president," he told a media conference in the capital today when commenting on Zahid's appointment.

When Dr Mahathir was prime minister, Zahid was arrested under the Internal Security Act (ISA) during the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Zahid was Umno Youth chief at the time and he spoke out against nepotism and cronyism in Umno, sharing the same tone as Anwar before he was sacked.

Zahid was then taken back into Umno and appointed deputy minister after the 2004 general election.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak on Tuesday dropped five out of 35 ministers from his cabinet, including his former deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin who had been vocal in criticising the handling of the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal.

Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal and Datuk Seri Hasan Malek were also dropped as ministers.
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