

MAHATHIR - MUSA

84 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 25 (BERNAMA)-- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT DATUK MUSA HITAM'S RE-ELECTION AS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT IS A CLEAR-CUT DECISION BY PARTY MEMBERS WHICH SHOULD RESOLVE ANY "AMBIGUITY" IN THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION IN THE PARTY.

HE SAID THAT AN INCREASE OR DECREASE IN THE MARGIN OF VOTE HAS IMMATERIAL BUT WHAT MATTERED WAS THE SUPPORT SHOWN BY THE DELEGATES.

"THE MEMBERS HAVE MADE THEIR DECISION AND THEY HAVE GIVEN A CLEAR-CUT DECISION. THERE IS NOW NO MORE AMBIGUITY," HE SAID WHEN COMMENTING ON DATUK MUSA'S VICTORY.

DATUK MUSA OBTAINED A 243 -VOTE MAJORITY, AN IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS SHOWING IN THE 1981 ELECTION.

HE POLLED 744 VOTES AGAINST TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S 501.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE RESULTS HAD ALSO VINDICATED HIS STAND THAT THE INCUMBENT SHOULD BE RE-ELECTED TO MAINTAIN THE PARTY'S TRADITION.

+I AM HAPPY THAT IT IS ALL OVER.

+DATUK MUSA'S RE-ELECTION HAS JUSTIFIED MY STAND IN SO FAR THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CONTEST,+ HE SAID. -- MORE 0001/SL

ZCZC N175 (F/S)

MAHATHIR-MUSA 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID DATUK MUSA'S VICTORY WAS EXPECTED NOT ONLY BY HIM ALONE AS FROM THE INDICATIONS +IT IS EXPECTED BY MOST PEOPLE+.

"I DON'T THINK ABOUT THE MAJORITY OBTAINED BECAUSE TO ME IT IS NOT IMPORTANT: IT IS THE VICTORY THAT COUNTS."

ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE PARTY'S SUPPORT OF HIM, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REPLIED: "I HAVE NOT DECLARED VERY MUCH SUPPORT FOR DATUK MUSA."

"HAD SOMEBODY ELSE BEEN DEPUTY PRESIDENT BEFORE, I WOULD HAVE SAID THE SAME THING. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO THE INCUMBENT IS."

HE ADVISED TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND DATUK HARUN TO GIVE THEIR SERVICES TO THE PARTY AND TO SHOW THEIR LOYALTY TO UMNO.

"IF DATUK MUSA LOSES, I WOULD OFFER THE SAME ADVICE," HE ADDED.
-- MORE 0007/AN

MAHATHIR-MUSA 3 KUALA LUMPUR

TO THE CANDIDATES, HE ADVISED THEM TO FORGET ABOUT ANY BITTERNESS ARISING FROM THE RIVALRY.

+WE BELONG TO ONE PARTY AND AS THE CONTEST IS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND NOT INTER -- ORINTRA -- PARTY, WE SHOULD CLOSE RANKS+, HE STRESSED.

ON TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S POSITION IN THE CABINET, HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT THOUGHT ABOUT HAVING A CABINET RESHUFFLE AS YET AND THAT HE HAD NOT MET TENGKU RAZALEIGH TO DISCUSS THE LATTER'S FUTURE.

REGARDING TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S POSITION 'AS' UMNO TREASURER, THE PRPME MINISTERS SAID HE HAD TO THINK VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION ON THE MATTE.

+I DON'T HAVE A CRYSTAL BALL WITH ME TO TELL YOU WHEN A CABINET RESHUFFLE WILL BE HELD. I WILL DEFINITELY MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT WHEN THE TIME COMES+, HE SAID WHEN PRESSED BY NEWSMEN ON WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A CABINET RESHUFFLE IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS' TIME.

--MORE 0023/AN

ZCZC N179 (F/S)

MAHATHIR-MUSA 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DECLINED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE TENGKU RAZALEIGH TO STAY ON AS A CABINET MINISTER OR TO RETAIN HIS UMNO TREASURER'S POST.

HE ALSO DID NOT THINK THAT TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S DEFEAT IN THE CONTEST WOULD HAVE ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON KELANTAN LEADING TO PAS REGAINING ITS HOLD OF THE STATE.

+UMNO IN KELANTAN IS SOLID, +HE SAID

HE DISAGREED THAT NOT WAVING TENGKU RAZALEIGH OR TENGKU RITHAUDDEEN (WHO LOST HIS VICE-PRESIDENT POST) IN THE SUPREME COUCIL WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON KELANTAN UMNO.

+WE MUST REMEMBER THAT PEOPLE CAN SERVE THE PARTY; NOT ONLY THROUGH THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL BUT ALSO IN OTHER CAPACITIES+, HE SAID.

--BERNAMA 0025/AN