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MAHATHIR-CONTEST
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 18 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR
MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS GLAD THE CONTEST FOR THE UMNO YOUTH
PRESIDENCY YESTERDAY WAS CONDUCTED IN A CORDIAL FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND UMNO PRESIDENT, WHO WAS ASKED TO COMMENT
ON THE CONTEST IN WHICH ENCIK ANWAR IBRAHIM RETAINED HIS POST, SAID:
+THOSE WHO HAVE WON, HAVE WON AND THOSE WHO HAVE LOST, HAVE LOST. WE
SHOULD ACCEPT THE DECISION THAT HAD BEEN MADE.+

IN THE CONTEST, ENCIK ANWAR, WHO IS EDUCATION MINISTER, BESTED
HIS CHALLENGER, UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER SYED HAMID ALBAR, WITH A
194-VOTE MAJORITY WIN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THE PARTY IS
NOT WHO WON BECAUSE THE LOSER IS ALSO FROM UMNO.

+WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT IS FOR THE PARTY TO CONTINUE BEING
EFFECTIVE IN SERVING THE INTERESTS OF THE MALAYS.+ -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-CONTEST 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ASKED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ENCIK ANWAR'S VICTORY, DATUK SERI DR
MAHATHIR SAID: +THE VICTORY DOES NOT HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANCE, ONLY
THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES CHOSE ENCIK ANWAR.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, THE
SO-CALLED PROXY BATTLE IN THE FORM OF THE CONTEST DID NOT EXIST.
(THERE HAD BEEN SPECULATIONS THAT THE CONTEST WAS ACTUALLY A PROXY
FIGHT BETWEEN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT DATUK
MUSA HITAM).

ASKED WHETHER ENCIK ANWAR'S VICTORY HAD STRENGTHENED HIS OWN
POSITION AS UMNO PRESIDENT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT
GIVE THIS ANY THOUGHT AS WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT UMNO CONTINUED
TO BE EFFECTIVE. -- BERNAMA
1729MST 18 09 86