

PM pleased with polls atmosphere

NST 19 SEP 1986

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was satisfied with the atmosphere at the Youth and Wanita elections yesterday.

He said in any contest there would always be losers and winners.

"But the most important thing is that the contests were held in a congenial atmosphere," he told reporters during a coffee break.

On Youth leader Anwar Ibrahim's victory by a 194-vote margin over challenger Syed Hamid Albar yesterday, Dr Mahathir said the only significance was that "the majority in the Youth movement chose Anwar."

He said the contest between Encik Anwar and Syed Hamid was not, contrary to popular belief, "a proxy fight".

"This proxy fight business was just an idea planted for the amusement of certain

quarters."

Dr Mahathir said differences of opinion were bound to exist in any organisation.

"Nevertheless, in the contest, the losers and winners remain in Umno. That is important."

There was also no question that Encik Anwar's win yesterday would enhance Dr Mahathir's own position or strength since the Youth leader was a staunch supporter of the Prime Minister.

"Such a question does not arise," Dr Mahathir said.

On whether Datuk Musa Hitam's speech when opening the Youth and Wanita assemblies yesterday reflected the deputy president's intention to "go for broke" and contest the Umno presidency next year, Dr Mahathir said: "Oh no, I don't make extrapolations like that."