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RESULT-COMMENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 24 (BERNAMA) -- INFORMATION MINISTER TENGGU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN SAID TONIGHT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD'S CLOSE WIN OVER TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH FOR THE UMNO PRESIDENCY INDICATES THAT THE PARTY IS SPLIT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE.

TENGGU RITHAUDDEEN, WHO IS ALSO A CANDIDATE FOR A UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL SEAT, WAS PRESENT AT THE TUN DR ISMAIL HALL AT THE THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE WHERE PERMANENT CHAIRMAN TAN SRI BULAIMAN NINAM SHAH ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION FOR THE TOP THREE POSTS OF THE PARTY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS, TENGGU RITHAUDDEEN SAID: +I HOPE THAT UMNO WILL SEE THE REALITY AND THE SERIOUSNESS (OF THE SITUATION) AND SOLVE WHATEVER PROBLEM THERE MAY BE.+

HE SAID HE DID NO WANT TO SEE +TWO ELEPHANTS FIGHT AND THE DEER GET CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE.+

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE IS UMNO MUST LOOK SERIOUSLY TO REMAIN UNITED+. -- MORE

0111MST 25 04 87

U E766 AAE  
RESULT-COMMENTS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE APPEALED TO UMNO MEMBERS TO +BE TOGETHER IN ONE FAMILY+ AND URGED THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL TO LOOK INTO AND CHECK THE SPLIT IN THE PARTY.

ANOTHER SUPREME COUNCIL CANDIDATE AND KOK LANAS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD SAID THE NARROW MARGIN OF VICTORY FOR DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND ENCIK GHAFAR BABA WAS EXPECTED.

DATUK ABDULLAH SAID: +MY PREDICTION WAS THAT THE MARGIN FOR BOTH POSTS WOULD BE 50 TO 100 VOTES,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS.

HE SAID THE 41 SPOILT VOTES IN THE ELECTION FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDENCY +MIGHT BE DELIBERATE,+

ACTING UMNO YOUTH HEAD DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK SAID THE ELECTED PARTY LEADERS SHOULD +LOOK TO THE FUTURE TO ENSURE PARTY INTEGRITY.+ -- MORE

0115MST 25 04 87

U E767 AAE  
RESULT-COMMENTS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE TOLD BERNAMA THIS COULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN IF UMNO WAS DISUNITED, WEAK AND RIDDLED WITH PROBLEMS.

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS FOR THE PARTY LEADERSHIP TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE TO ENSURE PARTY INTEGRITY BECAUSE UMNO IS THE BACKBONE OF NATIONAL POLITICAL STABILITY,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SMALL MAJORITY OBTAINED BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND ENCIK GHAFAR, DATUK SERI NAJIB SAID IT MEANT THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS AMONG THE DELEGATES ON PARTY AND NATIONAL MATTERS.

DATUK SERI NAJIB ALSO CALLED ON PARTY MEMBERS TO FORGET ALL THAT HAD SURFACED DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD.

THEY SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN UMNO, A PARTY ON WHICH THE MALAYS PINNED THEIR HOPES, HE SAID. -- MORE

0117MST 25 04 87

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RESULT-COMMENTS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

WELFARE SERVICES MINISTER DATUK SHAHRIR ABDUL SAMAD, A CANDIDATE FOR A SUPREME COUNCIL SEAT, SAID DESPITE THE SMALL MAJORITY OBTAINED BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND ENCIK GHAFAR, PARTY MEMBERS MUST ABIDE BY THE DECISION OF THE DELEGATES.

+ALTHOUGH IT'S ONLY A 48-52 PERCENT SITUATION, WE STILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS,+ HE ADDED.

IN EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION, DATUK SHAHRIR SAID TENGKU RAZALEIGH AND DATUK MUSA DID VERY WELL.

DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER DATUK SABARUDDIN CHIK SAID HE WAS HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS AND CONGRATULATED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND ENCIK GHAFAR.

ASKED ON THE SMALL MAJORITY OBTAINED BY THE TWO PARTY LEADERS, DATUK SABARUDDIN SAID IT DID NOT MATTER. -- MORE  
0118MST 25 04 87

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RESULT-COMMENTS 5 KUALA LUMPUR

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER HAJAH NARINA YUSOF DESCRIBED THE CONTEST FOR THE UMNO PRESIDENCY AS A +FAIR FIGHT+.

SHE TOLD REPORTERS AT THE PRESS CENTRE AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE WHERE THE POLLING WAS HELD THAT +THE BEST MAN WINS+.

SHE SAID SHE GAVE HER FULL SUPPORT TO THE LEADERSHIP, ADDING THAT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL MEMBERS TO CONSOLIDATE AFTER THE ELECTION. -- BERNAMA

0131MST 25 04 87