

# Mahathir, Ghafar win

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DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Encik Ghafar Baba were returned as Umno president and deputy president in the party's elections yesterday.

Incumbent Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir beat off the challenge of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah with a majority of 43 votes, polling 761 votes against 718. Encik Ghafar pipped Datuk Musa Hitam 739-699, a majority of 40 votes.

There were no spoilt votes among the 1,479 votes cast for the post of president while for the deputy presidency 41 votes were spoilt.

This will be Dr Mahathir's third term as president. He took over from Tun Hussein Onn who stepped down due to ill health in 1981. Encik Ghafar has served the party for more than 30 years with 25 years as a vice president.

The results were announced by the permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah at 10.41 last night.

In the contest for the vice presidencies, the three successful candidates were: Datuk Seri Amar Wan Mokhtar Ahmad (935 votes), Datuk Abdullah Badawi (879 votes) and Encik Anwar Ibrahim (850 votes).

Encik Anwar who had stepped down as Umno Youth leader Thursday contested the vice president's post for the first time. He had been the youth leader since 1981 after beating former leader Haji Suhaimi Kamaruddin. Datuk Seri Amar Wan Mokhtar and Datuk Abdullah Badawi were incumbents.

The other three contestants for the vice president's post were Datuk Rais Yatim (690 votes), Datuk Seri Ramli Ngah Talib (667 votes) and Datuk Harun Idris (339 votes).

A total of 4,419 votes were cast for the posts of vice presidents, of which 18 were spoilt votes.

Tan Sri Sulaiman also announced the election of Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah and Datuk Shuib Haji Ahmad as permanent chairman and deputy permanent chairman with votes of 850 and 533 respectively.

None of the candidates for the posts of the president, deputy president or the vice presidents were present at the Putra World Trade Centre when Tan Sri Sulaiman announced the results.

Speaking to the press after the results were announced, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he was happy

that the Umno election went off very well. The delegates were mature and had executed their duty responsibly. He hoped Umno members will now close ranks.

Asked about the 43-vote majority he obtained he replied: "The majority is more than one. I promised that even if I got a majority of one I would continue my service; and I got a majority of more than one."

Dr Mahathir felt he would be able to run the party effectively despite the slim majority.

He added: "What I think (of the majority) is of no consequence.

What is important is what Umno does. What is important is for Umno to have a proper election and to make a proper decision."

He said it is too early to predict the effects of the election. "We have to calm down and analyse the thinking of members."

He also said that it will have to be seen if there is to be a change of style and leadership.

He declined to reply repeated questions whether there would be a Cabinet reshuffle. He said his priority will be to work for the party and Government as before.