

CNS9139

U PE 04-11 00249 EB817

aae

Umno-Mahathir (comment)

ELECTION RESULTS GOOD, SAYS MAHATHIR

BM

93
KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described the election of the three new Umno vice-presidents as a good choic which could help the country achieve its Vision 2020 objective to become a developed nation by that year.

The Umno president said the decision of the delegates was a wise one because the candidates were chosen without there being any evidence of teams.

"I feel it is a good decision...it is Umno's way of bringing in all types of people," he said at a press conference after the results of the elections were announced at Dewan Merdeka, Putra World Trade Centre, here.

The three new vice-presidents are Johor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin who polled 1,413 votes, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak (1,202 votes) and Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib (1,189 votes).

Asked what he meant by there being no sign of teams when all the three new vice-presidents were termed the Wawasan Team, he said he was of that view because the losers did not lose by a big margin.

"If we observe, those not in the group had receive many votes although they lost. If we observe in terms of candidates, many were inclined towards groups but in terms of votes they were evenly distributed," he said. --

more

JO JK

▼04/11/20-34MST

U PE 04-11 00158 EB818

aae

Umno-Mahathir (comment), 2 Kuala Lumpur

The two incumbent vice-presidents were defeated in the elections, with Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi polling 927 votes and Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, 525 votes.

Asked whether the positions of the losers would be affected, Dr Mahathir said: "Well, I don't know. I don't think so but I am not guided entirely by the election results."

On the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle, he said he was not tied down by the election results because he could ignore the results.

"That is the beauty of being the Prime Minister of Malaysia, you can ignore your party's decision.

Asked whether the results would cause unease because of dissatisfaction among members of "Ghafar's group", he said the situation would not arise because all parties appeared to be prepared to cooperate in the Umno tradition. -- more

JO JK

▼04/11/20-37MST

aae

Umno-Mahathir (comment) 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Asked whether the results showed that he had lost control of the party, Dr Mahathir said it was the reverse because now he had better control of the party than before the 1987 crisis.

He said what was happening in Umno now was a normal matter because in a democratic process there must be losers.

The prime minister said he was not worried about post-election unity in the party because he believed that Umno would become stronger as was evident after 1987.

Asked whether the new leaders elected could be regarded as the second echelon, he said they could be viewed as such because his deputy, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, was younger than him.

However, he did not regard their leadership as "young leadership" because the late Tun Abdul Razak, the country's second prime minister, became an Umno deputy president at the age of 38, -- Bernama

JO JK

▼04/11/20-40MST