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BN VICTORIES PROOF OF SUPPORT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, SAYS UMNO YOUTH

KANGAR, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- The victory of the Barisan Nasional in the Changkat Jering and Sungai Bakap state by-elections is proof of the people's strong support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said today.

Speaking to reporters here, he said that both victories proved baseless claims by the foreign media that support for the prime minister was declining.

Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim was happy that the BN was victorious even though the country was facing an economic crisis.

In Kepala Batas, Umno vice president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that the BN would conduct an analysis of the result in Sungai Bakap.

In the Changkat Jering by-election, BN's Mat Isa Ismail polled 7,221 votes, defeating Idris Ahmad of PAS who received 3,677 votes.

The BN's candidate in the Sungai Bakap by-election, Lai Chew Hock, obtained 5,010 votes, beating his closest rival, DAP's Goh Kheng Huat with a 1,440 vote majority. -- BERNAMA

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