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37 (A) Pto file

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WAS RE-ELECTED UMNO PRESIDENT TODAY, DEFEATING CHALLENGER TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH BY 43 VOTES.

THE PRIME MINISTER POLLED 761 VOTES TO TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S 718.

ALL 1,479 DELEGATES CAST THEIR BALLOTS IN THE TRIENNIAL UMNO SUPREME ELECTIONS HELD DURING THE ON-GOING 38TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT'S POST, INCUMBENT DATUK MUSA HITAM WAS OUSTED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA BY A 40-VOTE MARGIN.

ENCIK GHAFAR SECURED 739 VOTES TO DATUK MUSA'S 699. THERE WERE 41 SPOILT VOTES. -- MORE
2315MST 24 04 87

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UMNO-RESULTS 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R' R R R

IN THE CONTEST FOR THE THREE POSTS OF VICE-PRESIDENT, TWO INCUMBENTS WERE RETURNED -- TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD AND DEFENCE MINISTER DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI.

THE THIRD SLOT WENT TO EDUCATION MINISTER AND FORMER UMNO YOUTH CHIEF ANWAR IBRAHIM.

DATUK SERI WAN MOKHTAR POLLED 935 VOTES, DATUK ABDULLAH 879 AND ENCIK ANWAR, 850.

THERE WERE THREE OTHER CONTENDERS FOR THE POSTS -- FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM (690 VOTES), PERAK MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI RAMLI NGAH TALIB (667) AND FORMER SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI HARUN IDRIS (398).

THERE WERE 18 SPOILT VOTES. -- MORE
2328MST 24 04 87

D679

B E747 AAE
UMNO-RESULTS 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'R R R R

THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED BY UMNO PERMANENT CHAIRMAN TAN SRI SULAIMAN NINAM SHAH TO REPORTERS, DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS IN THE DEWAN TUN ISMAIL AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE AT ABOUT 10.45PM, MORE THAN SIX HOURS AFTER COUNTING OF VOTES BEGAN.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CARRIED LIVE BY BOTH RTM AND TV3.

TAN SRI SULAIMAN FIRST ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF THE CONTEST FOR THE POSTS OF PERMANENT CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY PERMANENT CHAIRMAN, KEEPING A NATION WAITING IN SUSPENSE FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION FOR THE TOP UMNO POSTS.

TAN SRI SULAIMAN RETAINED THE POST WHEN HE RECEIVED 850 VOTES WHILE DATUK SHUIB HAJI AHMAD WAS ALSO RETURNED AS DEPUTY WITH 533 VOTES.

FIVE CANDIDATES STOOD FOR EACH POST.

THE RESULTS ANNOUNCED TONIGHT WERE HANDED TO TAN SRI SULAIMAN BY UMNO ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TAN SRI ZAHIR ISMAIL, WHO IS DEWAN RAKYAT SPEAKER.

COUNTING OF VOTES FOR ELECTIONS TO THE 25 SUPREME COUNCIL SEATS WAS STILL IN PROGRESS AND EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED AT DAWN TOMORROW.

TAN SRI SULAIMAN SAID THE RESULTS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED TOMORROW.

-- BERNAMA
2336MST 24 04 87