

# 'The people have made their choice' Stability wins the day—PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The people have made their choice and the Barisan Nasional's victory is testimony to the rakyat's preference for stability in the administration of the country, says Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.**

"What we have been saying all along is right — that all the rumours about the BN Government are mere rumours aimed at disrupting the administration of the country and that the people want a strong and stable Government."

The people's decision to return the BN to power was ample proof of the soundness of its policies and the failure of the Opposition, particularly Pas, to provide a better alternative.

Dr Mahathir, speaking after the BN had won its two-thirds majority in Parliament and formed the State Governments throughout pen-

By SHARIFAH ROZITA

insular Malaysia, expressed "satisfaction" with the victory, adding: "We have always predicted we could get the two-thirds majority."

There were some surprises, particularly in some "doubtful" areas in Kelantan, which the BN had expected to lose but instead won, making a strong showing as well.

"We were quite uncertain about our performance in Kelantan," he said.

With the general election over and the decision of the people clearly defined, the BN Government would now continue to implement its policies which had been designed for the good of the country.

"The administration of the country has been disrupted by groups who made issues of certain policies — such that even if the policies were good, they couldn't be carried out properly.

"Now that the BN has got its victory, we will implement them," he said.

Dr Mahathir, however, did not expect "drastic" changes in policies. "I don't change policies to satisfy certain people."

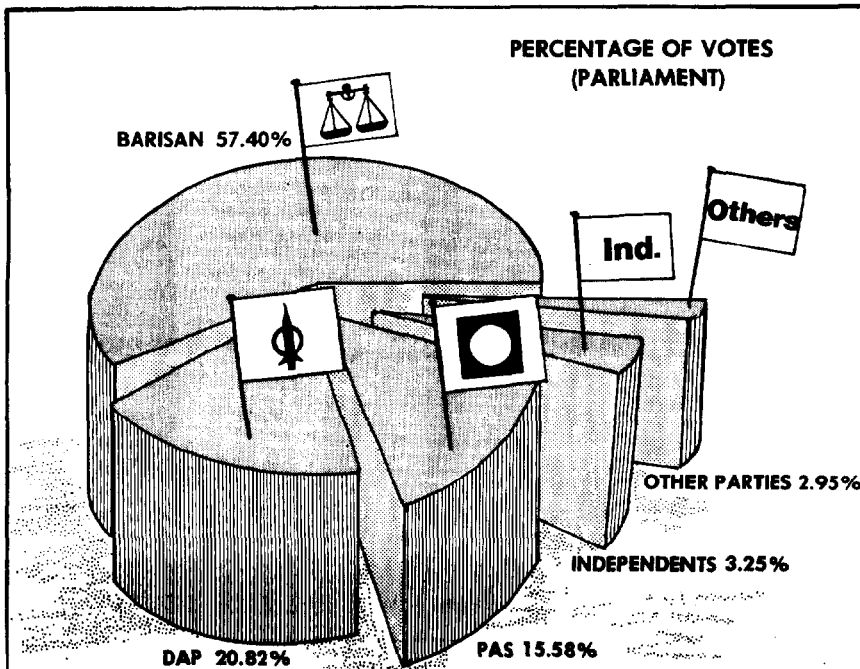
He said he would consult other members of the new Government to determine any new directions or decisions.

One of the policies that will not be changed is Malaysia's stand on apartheid.

"It is a waste of time being diplomatic and nice to South Africa. My solution is sanctions," he said.

Looking tired after a sleepless night, the Prime Minister — who spoke to reporters about

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# Leave party, Pas members urged

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6.30am — commented on the contrasting performances of Pas and the DAP.

Pas' dismal performance — winning only one Parliament seat — was due to its incorrigible ways, its arrogance and its lack of direction and principles.

The DAP's success was "not surprising" given the realisation that the BN's strength in a number of seats was "questionable".

Dr Mahathir said of Pas: "If it does not change its ways, it will continue to fail. The people are disappointed with Pas, which doesn't seem to have any principles or stand.

"Pas does not practise what Islam teaches and the people can see through it. It has become arrogant, doing things without consulting its members. It is not working for the interest of Islam, only itself. We are doing right by Islam."

Pas, he said, had been "duped by its own publicity. They were over-confident, especially in Kelantan, and thought that the huge crowds who attended their *ceramah* would vote for them."

He had a simple advice for Pas members: "It is about time they left the party."

On discussions of issues concerning the Muslim community, including with Pas leaders — as he had done before the general election — the Prime Minister said: "I will discuss with anyone."

Acknowledging the DAP's success, Dr Mahathir said the BN would have to do a "proper post-mortem" of the hows and whys of its victory.

The urban voters, he said, did not have the same loyalty to a party as those in the rural areas.

"They changed their minds this time, they may change their minds later on. They (the DAP) probably got a lot of support from the young voters who have different ways of thinking."

However, the BN still managed to spoil the DAP's ambition of forming a State Government in Penang.

The reduced majorities obtained by BN candidates in several seats could be attributed to many reasons, he added.

On whether the losses by the MCA and Gerakan meant a review of the component parties' representation of the Chinese community, Dr Mahathir said: "It is up to them to think about this."

On the failure of the Opposition pact to boost the performance of the five parties — Pas, Nasma, Sepakat Democratic Party (SDP), Parti Sosialis Rakyat Malaysia (PSRM) and the Workers' Party — the BN leader said: "The pact had no concrete foundation nor direction.

"None trusted the other."

Dr Mahathir also expressed his doubt about the viability of the small opposition parties.

"Maybe they had better not be formed. They are only formed by frustrated politicians. Malaysians are serious people who believe that small parties like these would not be able to do anything for them."

Dr Mahathir spoke to newsmen for about 45 minutes. At the end of it, he was chaired by BN supporters.