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PETALING JAYA, MAY 17 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY DESCRIBED THE BARISAN NASIONAL'S (BN) VICTORY IN THE GOPENG PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION YESTERDAY AS PROOF OF THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT AND TRUST IN THE BN TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY.

IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE BN VICTORY ALSO INDICATED THAT THE PEOPLE WANTED A POLITICAL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT CAPABLE OF UPHOLDING UNITY AND BRINGING FORTH PROGRESS.

THE PEOPLE HAD CLEARLY REJECTED UNETHICAL MEANS IN MALAYSIAN POLITICS, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO CONGRATULATED THE BN CANDIDATE, DR TING CHEW PEH, AND THANKED BN WORKERS INVOLVED IN ENSURING SUCCESS FOR THE COALITION.

IN THE BY-ELECTION, DR TING SECURED 12,619 VOTES WITH A MAJORITY OF 4,523 VOTES TO BEAT DAP CANDIDATE ENCIK AHMAD NOR WHO POLLED 8,096 VOTES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE ENCIK TAN KEE CHYE WHO MANAGED ONLY 103 VOTES. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO THANKED VOTERS IN GOPENG FOR ONCE AGAIN SUPPORTING THE BN CANDIDATE IN THEIR CONSTITUENCY.

MEANWHILE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA TOLD BERNAMA THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE BY-ELECTION SHOWED THAT THE PEOPLE PLACED THEIR TRUST IN THE COUNTRY'S LEADERSHIP UNDER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

HE SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES IN THE RUN-UP TO THE BY-ELECTION, ADDING THAT THE PEOPLE WERE MATURE ENOUGH TO CHOOSE A PARTY IN THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY AND STABILITY.

CONGRATULATING THE PERAK BN LED BY MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI RAMLI NGAH TALIB, ENCIK GHAFAR SAID THE BN WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE PEOPLE AND COUNTRY.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE CONTINUED TO BUILD GREATER COOPERATION WITHIN THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES AND UPHOLD UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE. -- BERNAMA

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