

MAHATHIR-MAJORITY
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 22 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS DESCRIBED THE BARISAN NASIONAL'S (BN) SUCCESS IN RETAINING A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION AS PROOF THAT THE PEOPLE STILL WANT THE BN TO RULE AND MAINTAIN PEACE, STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

+I AM VERY HAPPY BECAUSE WE HAVE ACHIEVED A TWO-THIRD MAJORITY... WHAT MORE SINCE WE OBTAINED THE MAJORITY BY DEFEATING ALL THE SEMANGAT 46 LEADERS BESIDES THOSE IN KELANTAN AND TERENGGANU. ALL TOP LEADERS OF SEMANGAT 46 HAVE BEEN DEFEATED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO WAS SMILING THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW TELECAST LIVE BY TELEVISION MALAYSIA EARLY THIS MORNING SAID THAT THE LARGE MAJORITY WIN PROVED THAT THE PEOPLE ACCEPTED THE OBJECTIVES OF THE BN CONTAINED IN ITS MANIFESTO.

COMMENTING ON THE DEFEAT OF SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER THE REPRESENTATION OF THE STATES IN THE CABINET LINE-UP.

+THE PROBLEM FACING US IS THAT KELANTAN DOES NOT HAVE EVEN ONE REPRESENTATIVE THAT WE COULD NOMINATE EVEN AS A POLITICAL SECRETARY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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TWO DEFEATED MINISTERS ARE DEFENCE MINISTER TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN (KOTA BARU) AND SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DATUK AMAR STEPHEN YONG (KUCHING).

WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE ALREADY HAD POTENTIAL CANDIDATES IN MIND FOR THE CABINET LINE-UP, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE MATTER WAS TOO EARLY TO DISCUSS ESPECIALLY SINCE SEVERAL RESULTS HAD YET TO BE ANNOUNCED.

ON HOW HE WOULD DEAL WITH SABAH AND KELANTAN NOW UNDER THE RULE OF THE OPPOSITION, HE SAID: +I ADMIT THAT I DO NOT HAVE EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH GOVERNMENTS LED BY OPPOSITION PARTIES.+

+IN THIS MATTER I NEED TO GIVE IT DEEP THOUGHT AND GET THE ADVICE OF THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD SUCH AN EXPERIENCE,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
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HE SAID THAT THE BN WOULD STILL CONDUCT A +POST-MORTEM+ ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE COALITION IN THE ELECTION ALTHOUGH IT HAD WON WITH A RESOUNDING MAJORITY, TO BE THE BASIS FOR FUTURE ELECTION STRATEGY.

+DO NOT ASK WHEN THE ELECTION WILL BE,+ HE SAID, LAUGHING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES, ADDING THAT ON THE WHOLE THEIR ACHIEVEMENT WAS BETTER THAN THAT IN THE 1986 GENERAL ELECTION.
-- BERNAMA