

Dr M: Win proof of people's support

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described the Barisan Nasional's thumping win in the general election as proof that Malaysians agreed with the ruling party's objectives of peace, stability and prosperity for the country.

As such, the Prime Minister said the BN Government would continue with its present policies.

Speaking at a 3.45am Press conference at the Putra World Trade Centre after most of the results were in, he said:

"Although the BN won with more than a two-thirds majority, we will not ridicule the losers.

"We only hope that those who lost will be able to accept the people's verdict.

"We have many plans to continue developing the country and for this, we need peace and order."

Just as the BN was able to accept the Kelantan people's verdict in rejecting the BN, he hoped that the losers would accept that the people generally wanted the BN returned with a two-thirds majority.

A tired but happy Dr Mahathir smiled when asked over television earlier whether he was satisfied

with the performance of the BN.

"I am glad that we have finally achieved our objective of getting a two-thirds majority ... all the more so when our majority is achieved with the defeat of almost all Semangat 46 leaders.

"All Semangat 46 leaders, except for those in Kelantan and Terengganu, have lost.

"This is proof that the people want BN to continue ruling with a thumping majority.

"They want peace and stability and, through this, prosperity. These three are our objectives and the people agree with our objectives."

Asked about his new Cabinet, he said he had not given it much thought as he could not be sure who would be returned.

As it turned out, two Ministers have lost. They are Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen (Defence) in Kota Baru and Datuk Amar Stephen Yong (Science, Technology and Environment) in Bandar Kuching.

He told reporters that the caretaker Government would continue to run the country.

"(This matter of) form-

ing a new Government is not so pressing now that the BN is returned with a two-thirds majority.

"The problem now is that there is no one from Kelantan for us to select. This is the choice of the people of Kelantan and we cannot do anything.

"We will have to think of how we can overcome this problem. We don't want to take up all the places to the extent that Kelantan has no representation."

Asked to comment on the possibility of BN co-operating with Pas, he said the ruling coalition was open to all.

Pas had stated that it might be able to co-operate with Umno after the general election.

"BN is open to anyone but the entry should not be with conditions. As a small party joining a larger body, it should obey the bigger body."

To a question, Dr Mahathir said the BN would not make any overture to Pas.

Dr Mahathir thanked voters who supported the BN and congratulated all voters for the disciplined manner in casting their ballots for an incident-free general election.