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Mahathir-Usukan

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SURANG, May 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Barisan Nasional's victory in last Saturday's Usukan state by-election augurs well for Sabah and the nation.

He said the BN had expected to win the by-election but with a reduced majority because of smear campaign by the ruling Parti Bersatu Sabah against the federal government and Umno.

The Prime Minister told this to reporters who were covering his return from a two-week holiday abroad at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport here today.

+ Obviously, some people could have been influenced by the smear campaign. But Thank Allah, despite widespread attempts to discredit the federal government, the people of Sabah show that they not only want the BN but also support Umno's presence in Sabah, + he said.

In the by-election last May 11, the BN candidate from Umno, Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun defeated Jap Omar of the PBS by a majority of 2,492 votes in a straight fight.-- more

♥15/05/20-13MST

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Mahathir-Usukan 2 Subang

The Prime Minister's wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, several ministers and deputy ministers, Tun Datu Mustapha, who is Sabah Umno deputy liaison chief, were among those who received Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir at the airport.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir congratulated Tun Datu Mustapha and raised the Sabah leader's hand in a victory gesture.

The Prime Minister who left for overseas last April 28, arrived on a Malaysia Airlines flight which landed at 6.10 pm.

To a question from reporters on last week's explosions and fire at a fireworks factory in Sungai Buloh, the Prime Minister said it was an unexpected tragedy.

He said it was only proper to wait for the Royal Commission of Inquiry to complete its investigations into the tragedy before any action could be taken.-- Bernama

♥15/05/20-26MST