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MAHATHIR CONGRATULATES VICTORIOUS BN CANDIDATE

Jerai - Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR , March 4⁹² (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight congratulated Barisan Nasional's Haji Badaruddin, ~~Amiruddin~~ who won the Jerai parliamentary seat in the by-election today.

He thanked the BN election workers and, the voters for helping the BN to retain the seat.

Badaruddin, 42, polled 14,538 votes to beat the PAS candidate, Nasir Haji Othman, also 42, by a majority of 3,726 votes. There were 263 spoilt votes.

Dr Mahathir said the BN had expected Badaruddin to win the seat with a reduced majority. Badaruddin's majority was 876 votes less than that obtained by the BN in the last general election through Haji Ghazali Ahmad whose death last month necessitated the by-election.

It was normal for by-elections to record a lower percentage of voter turnout than a general election, he told reporters at Pusat Islam here where he attended the Quran Reading Competition of the Royal Malaysian Police. -- more

▼04/03/23-55MST

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Jerai - Mahathir 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said he hoped that Badaruddin would work hard to fulfill the promises made during the election campaign.*

Asked about the trend to contest the validity of elections in court, he said it was a right under the law.

+When there is such a law, we follow the law . . . some win and some lose (referring to the court cases),+ he said.

In Yan, Kedah, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Arbff said he was unhappy with the reduced majority obtained by the BN.

+We will conduct a post-mortem to identify the weaknesses,+ he told reporters after the result was announced. -- more

▼05/03/00-01MST

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Jerai - Mahathir 3 Kuala Lumpur

Osman said he had expected between 75, and 80 per cent of the 37,171 voters' to vote but only 69 per cent did so. The voting percentage in the last general election was 73.93.

He believed that many BN supporters did not vote and those who 'lived far away did not return to cast their ballots.

Kedah MCA Chairman Senator Datuk William Chek Lin Kwai said the result showed that the Chinese community supported the BN.

+This disproves statements by certain parties that, the Chinese community in Jerai will not vote for the BN in the by-election,+ he said.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Haji Raja Ariffin Raja Sulaiman said he was proud of the BN victory although the majority was smaller.

Dadaruddin pledged to carry out his responsibility to the best of his ability. -- more

▼05/03/00-06MST

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Jerai - Mahathir 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He asked the people for their cooperation in carrying out 'development, projects for the constituency.

In Shah Alam, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said he was happy with the BN victory.

He said the victory was similar to that in any 'other' by-election and this proved that the-BN government had the support of the people.

In Western countries, by-elections were normally won by the opposition, he said. -- Bernama

▼05/03/00-10MST