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Mahathir-BN

BN VICTORY IN BATU TALAM REFLECTS PEOPLE'S SUPPORT

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug. 30 ⁹³ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ⁹³ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Barisan Nasional's outstanding victory in the Batu Talam state by-election in Pahang reflected the people's ever growing support for the government.

The victory also showed the people understood the government's policies, including Vision 2020, despite efforts by the opposition which criticised them.

"I wish to say congratulations for the outstanding victory," he told reporters at the Sungai Besi air force station here before flying to Kuching to attend National Day celebrations there tomorrow.

In the by-election on Saturday, BN's Syed Ali Syed Mohammad beat the PAS candidate Tengku Puji Tengku Abdul Hamid by a majority of 2,990 votes, much higher than the 1,980-vote majority won by the late Datuk Mazlan Idris in the 1990 general election.

Syed Ali polled 5,355 votes and Tengku Puji 2,365 votes. The Batu Talam constituency has 11,421 registered voters. -- more

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The by-election was forced by the murder of Mazlan whose mutilated body was found buried in a pit in Hulu Dong, Raub, on July 22.

Dr Mahathir said criticism of government policies by opposition parties, including PAS, would not influence the people against the government because they were aware of the aims of the policies.

Nevertheless, the government would continue to inform the people about the policies, particularly the settlers in the Tersang Pelda scheme which was the focus of the PAS campaign, to remedy the wrong impression of those taken in by PAS deception.

Dr Mahathir also said PAS dirty tactics of frightening the people not to go out to vote was a PAS tactic employed when it knew it was going to lose an election.

Clear testimony of the people's rejection of PAS' dirty tactics was the victory of the BN candidate with an overwhelming majority, he added.

"Previously, in Kedah also, they (PAS) brought samseng. This here, they brought from Kelantan... I believe they are not the people of Pahang," he said. -- Bernama

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