

Rejection of communalism,

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the just-concluded general election clearly showed that the people rejected the politics of fanaticism and communalism subscribed by the Opposition parties.

The Prime Minister said the people rejected the DAP's politics which is "thick with communalism" and Pas' approach which used religion for political purposes.

The Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) failed to get the

people's support because the Barisan Nasional had resolved whatever problems or issues the party had brought up all these years, Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said this at a Press conference at about 3.30am at the foyer of the podium block of the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC).

Dr Mahathir had earlier been following the election results at the 39th floor of the PWTC with several Cabinet colleagues and party supporters.

His wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, his wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah

Ismail, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat were also present at the conference.

Also present were Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) chairman Datuk Leo Moggie, Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Sarawak vice-president Datuk Amar Sulaiman Daud, Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) vice-president Datuk Law Hieng Ding, Umno treasurer Tun Daim Zainuddin, MIC permanent chairman Tan Sri S.O.K. Ubaidullah and Wanita Umno deputy leader Datuk

Napsiah Omar.

Dr Mahathir began the Press conference by thanking all those who have helped to make the election smooth and orderly.

He said the BN had been given the mandate to administer the country for another five years, an excellent victory indeed.

He said: "I have many times explained why we want a two-third majority... not for power like some people, but to determine that every Government programme is carried out without any interruption or threat from any side which could topple the Government.

"On behalf of the BN, I

wish to thank the voters of our country who have given the Barisan full confidence. It is rarely that a party that has ruled for so long gets increased support.

"Clearly, the results this time are far better than that normally achieved by the BN or Alliance since independence."

Reporters had gathered at the foyer as early as 6pm to wait for the results.

Local and foreign journalists followed the election results on television which were placed at several locations within the foyer.

Security at the entrance was tight and only those with accredited passes were allowed in.

fanaticism

Asked for his views on why the Opposition fared badly this time around, especially the DAP's poor showing in Penang, Dr Mahathir said:

"Generally voters rejected the campaign style of the DAP which from the start said that the Penang Chief Minister bows to Umno.

"This is seen as an appeal to Chinese voters that co-operation between the Chief Minister and his friends from Umno is an insult to the Chinese community. "On the other hand, the Chinese voters rejected this allegation and preferred the co-operation between the Chinese and Malays... and not see a Chief Minister who

is mad for power and who wishes to be Robocop."

Asked to comment on the BN's better showing in Kelantan than the 1990 election, Dr Mahathir said the BN not only won several seats but managed to reduce the majority in areas won by Pas and S46.

"Maybe, they still cannot see the good in the Barisan. But I think they will eventually realise that there is no benefit in them supporting Pas and S46.

"Maybe they have not understood what the Barisan struggle is. Maybe they are still trapped by Pas' claim that they are fighting for Islam, which is not true at all."

Asked whether he had any message to newly-elected representatives at the parliamentary or State levels, Dr Mahathir said:

"We have no time to rest. Actually we have a lot of plans, a lot of new ideas.

"With this mandate, we have to work harder because we are only given a mandate for five years. Five years is not enough. We have to renew it every five years.

"Therefore, I believe that all those who are now *wakil rakyat* will have to work hard or else..."

The following is the transcript of the Press conference