

Anwar: All support Dr M's leadership

From Hardev Kaur

WASHINGTON DC, Wed. — All communities in Malaysia have given their endorsement to the Government and leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In the recent general elections, the Barisan Nasional Government was returned to power with a bigger majority.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday: "I would like to claim some credit but in all honesty I must say it is his leadership that appealed to the electorate.

"They endorse his economic programmes, the country is stable and there is a greater sense of confidence among the various races.

"We have to recognise that," Anwar told a press conference after delivering a lecture at the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

As for the party elections, Anwar said Umno, which practises democracy, has seen some leaders retaining their posts while others lost. He said this in reply to a question regarding Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid's loss in his bid to retain the divisional post in Langkawi.

Anwar said the conclusion to claims that "Dr Mahathir's men lost and by implication that my men won" is not true.

"To assume that 'Dr Mahathir's men' lost is not right as in divisions, people who are said to be aligned to Dr Mahathir are also aligned to me and vice versa."

The truth of the matter, Anwar said, is that in party elections there is always about one-third to a quarter (of leaders) replaced.

"We accept this practice as in a democratic process and we have to accept that some may remain and some may lose in an election," he added.

Dr Mahathir had said on Sept 19, that there was no basis whatsoever to claims that candidates who were the president's candidates were out to defeat the candidates of the deputy president, or vice-versa.

"The truth was that there were no candidates who could claim to be of the president or of the deputy president," he had

P. Mahathir Mohamad

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