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BN sweeps all three seats with big majority (HL)

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Barisan Nasional emerged from the shocking May 17 defeat in Teluk Intan to make a clean sweep tonight of the Permatang and Repah State by-elections, and the Kuala Selangor parliamentary by-election.

Barisan defeated Pas in the crucial Permatang State seats in Selangor and the DAP in Repah in Negri Sembilan.

The coalition also retained the Kuala Selangor parliamentary seat after a straight fight with Pas.

Datuk Abu Hassan Omar's important victory in Permatang - confirming his appointment as the new Selangor Menteri Besar - was sealed when he whipped Pas' Mohd Maskuri Mardzuki by 7,780 votes.

Abu Hassan, 56, polled 9,590 votes against his opponent's 1,810 votes.

His victory was equalled by Datuk Jamaluddin Adnan who won the Kuala Selangor parliamentary seat by thrashing Pas' Alang Ahmad.

Jamaluddin polled 24,019 votes against Alang's 5,677 to record a whopping majority of 18,342 votes.

The results for the Permatang and Kuala Selangor by-elections were announced at 9.45pm by returning officer Ishak Ahmad at the Dewan Melawati in Kuala Selangor.

Abu Hassan resigned as Member of Parliament for Kuala Selangor and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister on May 2 after he was chosen by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to replace Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib as Menteri Besar.

He swapped seats with Jamaluddin as under the Selangor constitution, only a State Assemblyman can be appointed as a Menteri Besar.

In Tampin, the DAP, despite the heavy campaigning by its top guns, failed to repeat its so-called Teluk Intan "Richter Six Political Earthquake" in the Repah parliamentary by-election after its candidate Wong Zee Nyok was trounced by BN's Gan Chin Yap. (see CORRECTION above)

Gan secured 4,486 votes against Wong's 2,295, a majority of 2,191 votes.

The Repah by-election results were announced by returning officer Abdul Rashid Othman at 9.12pm at the Tampin district council hall, which also served as the tallying centre.

In the May 17 Teluk Intan by-election, the DAP created an upset when its candidate M. Kulasegaran defeated BN's Dr Chee See Choke. The DAP last won the parliamentary seat in 1969.

The Repah by-election was held following the death of Barisan Assemblyman Datuk Lay Chun Tai on April 29.

In the 1995 general election, Lay won with a 2,791-vote majority.

Voter turnout for all three seats exceeded 60 per cent. (See chart on Pages 2 and 4.)

Meanwhile, Abu Hassan will be sworn in before Speaker Datuk Onn Ismail at 2pm tomorrow as the new Assemblyman for Permatang.

However, he can only be sworn in as Menteri Besar once the Sultan of Selangor returns from London on Saturday.

Abu Hassan added that he would inform the Sultan of the results as soon as possible.

Well before the results were announced, the BN was already confident of a double victory in Dewan Melawati.

Even Dr Mahathir had called Abu Hassan from abroad to congratulate him on his victory before the results.

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