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By-election-Reaction (BN)

BAD WEATHER INCONVENIENCED VOTES- SHAHIDAN

KANGAR, July 4 (Bernama) -- Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim tonight gave three main reasons for the defeat of the Barisan Nasional candidate Ismail Kassim in the Arau parliamentary by-election.

Speaking to reporters at his residence here after the results were announced, he said the factors were the bad weather conditions which inconvenienced voters and internal problems within the State BN.

He said the other factor was the aggressive attitude of PAS supporters, who according to him, frightened away BN voters.

The Menteri Besar said he had briefed Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on the results and the factors leading to the defeat.

He said the Prime Minister had asked him and the BN supporters to accept the defeat in the democratic spirit and to work harder to ensure victory for the BN in future elections.

Shahidan said he would suggest to the Election Commission that it review the security control system at voting centres.

This was to prevent aggressive action on the part of canvassers, he added.

He felt that if the 3,000 people who did not turn up to vote today had cast their ballots, the outcome would be different.

He also said a post mortem would be held to weed out party members who claimed to support the BN but instead voted for the opposition.

-- BERNAMA

RIS GM AAM