

15 MAR 1999

Abdullah-Sabah

DEVELOPMENT AS WELL IN AREAS THE BN LOST

KOTA KINABALU, March 15 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) government will continue to bring development as well to constituencies that the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) won in the just concluded Sabah state election, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"The BN government in Sabah is a government for the people," he said here today when asked about the position of constituencies won by the PBS.

In the ninth state election, the BN won 31 of the 48 seats with the PBS taking 17.

The results also showed the PBS "retaking" 13 seats which it won in the 1994 state election before its assemblymen crossed over to the BN resulting in the fall of the PBS government.

Abdullah was speaking at a press conference to announce the appointment of Sabah Umno liaison chief Datuk Osu Sukam as the new Sabah Chief Minister.

Abdullah reiterated that the "door is closed" for the PBS, which was well supported by the Kadazandusun community, to join the BN fold.

"We are not going to meet with the PBS. That is the position taken by the BN chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said to the applause of Sabah Umno members present.

He said the results of the just ended state election also reflected the political maturity in Sabah.

"What is important is that the electorate has been able to thoroughly think over whatever issue raised and they have made their decisions in a democratic way," he said.

On the defeat of Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok in the state election, Abdullah said the loss was "most disappointing" for the BN.

"I would not say that Tan Sri Bernard has been totally rejected. But, this is democracy... the voice of the majority has changed the situation," he said.

Dompok, who was appointed Sabah Chief Minister in May last year under the rotation system, had to relinquish the post following his defeat.

Sabah Umno liaison chief Datuk Osu Sukam, named the new Sabah Chief Minister, took his oath of office at the Istana Negeri here today.

-- BERNAMA

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