

14 MAR 1999

MCA-Sabah

MCA WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE SABAH PEOPLE DESPITE ELECTION DEFEAT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 14 (Bernama) -- The MCA will continue to serve the Sabah people despite the defeat of its sole candidate in the Api-Api constituency in the state election yesterday, its secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh said today.

MCA Federal and state leaders would continue to be of service to the Sabah people, he said when commenting on the defeat of the MCA candidate Datuk Chau Tet On.

Earlier Ting presided at an MCA Election Steering Committee briefing on the coming party elections at Wisma MCA here.

"The MCA will see to it that MCA Federal ministers visited Sabah to help the people in areas under their jurisdiction," he said.

The MCA would also do a post mortem on its defeat in Api-Api, he added.

Chau polled 5,963 votes against the 9,146 obtained by his nearest rival Dr Yee Moh Chai of the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

"Eventhough the MCA was defeated, we will continue to try again," he said.

"We did the best we can but still lost. We respect the decision of the voters in Api-Api," he added.

On the BN victory, he said the Sabah voters had made a wise choice and it reflected their determination to ensure continued stability, peace and prosperity.

"More important it is also an endorsement of the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," he said.

"The MCA wishes to congratulate the Sabah Barisan Nasional and the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister on this resounding victory," he said.

In TERENGGANU, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the Barisan Nasional's big victory was beyond expectation.

"We expected to win easily but not to the extent of winning 31 seats and together with the six nominated seats we will have a big majority in the assembly," she said after opening a lamination and dry kiln owned by Latitude Tree Holdings Berhad, at Ajil about 50km from Kuala Terengganu.

Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said the support given by Umno and other BN leaders from outside Sabah had contributed to the big win.

The vote reflected the people's realisation that the state could not develop without the support of the Federal Government, he added.

--BERNAMA

SBJ AAM