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PM: Win proves BN still the party of choice for rakyat

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THE more than two-thirds majority secured by Barisan Nasional (BN) in the 10th general elections proves that it is still the party of choice for Malaysians, Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says.

He said the 149 seats won by BN in this election is in fact significantly bigger than the party's victory in 1995.

"In 1995 BN won 132 seats, although subsequently after crossovers by Parti Melayu Semangat 46 and other PBS members over to BN, we ended up with a total of 162. That was not the result of the 1995 elections," Dr Mahathir said.

He was speaking at a press conference held at the lobby of the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur this morning, after official figures showed that BN had won by more than a two-thirds majority.

At 2.45am, BN supporters cheered when the scoreboard set up at the lobby showed that BN had won 131 of the total 193 parliamentary seats.

Several minutes later, Dr Mahathir arrived at the lobby together with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, BN secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, BN election director Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, and other party officials.

"With gratefulness and humility I am glad to announce that in the 10th general elections since Independence, Barisan Nasional has won more than two-thirds of the parliamentary seats contested," Dr Mahathir said.

He said BN also won more than two-thirds majority in all but two states, Kelantan and Terengganu, which it lost to the Opposition.

Dr Mahathir noted that for the first time, Opposition heavyweights including DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang and DAP vice chairman Karpal Singh lost in both the parliamentary and state seats they contested.

He said BN will form the government at the federal and state levels as soon as possible, while the new Cabinet will be named after the official list of winners is studied.

"BN will fulfil all its promises. We are very grateful for the support of the people and as we mentioned in our manifesto, we will ensure that our country remains free, united and successful," Dr Mahathir added.

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