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Shahidan calls for leaders to work with the people

KANGAR, Tues. - The Perlis Barisan Nasional will apply the same people-friendly approach used during the recent successful electoral defence of the State in efforts to stop Pas from gaining influence there.

Its chairman Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said the party would use the bergelomiang approach, a word in the local dialect used to describe how leaders and the people should work together to face all challenges.

"It is more than just leaders being there with the people because it requires them (leaders) to be available in good or bad times," he said.

Shahidan was speaking to reporters after the handing-over ceremony of his appointment letter as Menteri Besar to Raja Perlis Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail at the Istana Kenangan Indah today.

He said all BN candidates would be required to personally address any problem at the grassroots level and to know better the needs of those who elected them.

Shahidan, who beat Pas candidate Ismail Ahmad in the contest for the Tambun Tulang State seat, said the support for BN was still strong as evident by the huge crowd who welcomed him home from Kuala Lumpur last night.

Perlis BN's success in winning 12 out of the 15 State seats and its clean sweep of all three parliamentary constituencies has been described by political observers as the party's best performance as the State was one of Pas' main targets during the election.

Shahidan said the recapture of the Arau parliamentary seat was the "crowning" of BN's success in the State and it redeemed the loss of the three State seats in Guar Sanji, Sanglang and Santan to Pas.

On speculation as to why it took five days after the election for his reappointment as Menteri Besar to be made public, Shahidan said he was tied up with other matters which had prevented him from promptly making an announcement.

He also showed reporters his appointment letter from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad which was dated Dec 2, 1999.

Shahidan, who will be sworn in as Menteri Besar at the Istana Arau on Thursday, said the State Executive Council line-up would be announced at a later date.

He said those selected would be sworn in on Dec 14.

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