

30 NOV 1999

Election-MIC (reaction)

VICTORY SHOWS PEOPLE'S SUPPORT FOR BN IS REAL

IPOH, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- The people's decision to return the Barisan Nasional (BN) to power again showed that the support for the national front is real and deep-rooted, said MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today.

He said it also proved that the support received by the government since Independence was not something temporary.

"This is a convincing win although we lost in some places," he said when it was announced that the BN had formed the government with more than two third majority.

Samy Vellu, who retained his Sungai Siput parliamentary seat, said one of the main reasons for the BN's victory was the able leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

However, he was sad that the BN lost several of its cabinet ministers and fared badly in Kelantan and Terengganu.

They included Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Othman (Sik, Kedah), Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed (Jeli, Kelantan) and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob (Parit, Perak).

"I am very sad. They are capable people and their defeat is a big loss to the country," he said.

Samy Vellu said it was unfortunate that the BN lost to PAS in Terengganu and Kelantan.

On the performance of MIC candidates, he said he was very happy to see all its candidates in seven parliamentary and 15 state seats were returned in the election.

"I have expected a 100 per cent victory and I am happy that we did it, through close cooperation with other BN component parties," he said.

Meanwhile, MCA secretary general Datuk Ting Chew Peh said all the MCA candidates would continue to serve the people even in areas where they lost.

"We will ensure that all our candidates keep their promises to the voters. We will also ensure that attention is also given in areas where we lost," he said.

Ting won the Gopeng seat when he defeated Abdul Rahman Said of DAP by polling 21,036 votes. Abdul Rahman received 14,676 votes.

-- BERNAMA

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