

15/03/1999

`Sabah victory testament to BN policies'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Following the Barisan Nasional's emphatic victory in the Sabah elections yesterday, congratulations from coalition leaders poured in, agreeing that it was a ringing endorsement of the BN's development policies.

The victory, the leaders agreed, was also a vote of confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

In Sungai Siput, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said "The Sabah people want to align themselves with people in the peninsula."

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok's defeat was described by Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid as "only temporary."

"We are saddened to see our friend defeated but BN still has a good prospect in the next State elections," he said after presenting the Harvard Business School Alumni Club awards at Universiti Utara Malaysia. "Dompok would be accepted again."

In Hulu Terengganu, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the victory reflected a change in voter attitude towards the BN Government.

In Ipoh, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said the BN's track record of delivering its promises convinced voters.

In Penang, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said the BN win showed that the people accepted the effectiveness of the BN.

"We all know Sabah is still behind in development compared to other States in the Peninsula," Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said in Hulu Terengganu. "Now we can concentrate on developing Sabah."

MCA secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, while describing the victory as "joyous", was nevertheless disappointed that the MCA's sole candidate failed to win.

In Shah Alam, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar said the victory proved that voters not only acknowledged the ruling party but were also prepared for changes that would benefit them.

Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin said the victory showed that voters wanted unity, instead of separation.

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang, while describing the BN victory as expected, was still surprised at the large margin the coalition secured.

Lim believed that the big win will prompt Dr Mahathir to review the BN's agenda for the next general election and when it would be called.

(END)