

10 MAR 1999
Sabah-Predictions
WHAT LEADERS SAY ON SABAH POLLS

KOTA KINABALU, March 10 (Bernama) -- Leaders of the three main parties -- Barisan Nasional (BN), Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) and Bersekutu -- are confident of victory in the state polls and forming the state government next week.

They expressed their confidence when speaking in election campaigns, press conferences, talking to reporters and exclusive interview with Bernama.

Polling for the ninth state election is on Friday and Saturday.

Following are the leaders' assessments and comments on the polls' outcome:

+ PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD: " The outcome of the election this time is more predictable than before, with the BN heading for a landslide victory."

" I don't think what happen (results) in the 1994 state election will recur this time."

In 1994, PBS won 25 seats to a simple majority against BN's 23. However, Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan-led Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) crumbled 22 days later when three of its assemblymen defected to BN.

+ CHIEF MINISTER TAN SRI BERNARD DOMPOK: " The wind blown by BN is more stronger. Tell Pairin not to stand in the middle because he will be blown off by the strong wind."

Dompok said when commenting on Pairin's statement that the wind of change is even stronger in this election than in 1986 and 1990.

Surprisingly, said Dompok, Pairin did not mention which direction the wind was blowing but the fact is, the people of Sabah wanted the BN as it was the only party which could guarantee continued development for the state.

+ PBS PRESIDENT DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN: " We are confident of winning 32 seats, far better than 25 we won in 1994."

+ BERSEKUTU ACTING PRESIDENT DATUK HARRIS SALLEH: " It's not difficult for us to get a simple majority but I'm confident Bersekutu can win more than 30 seats.....maybe even 32."

-- BERNAMA
AM TS