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T.Kemang-Reaction

LING WANTS ANALYSIS OF TELUK KEMANG BY-ELECTION RESULT

GENTING HIGHLANDS, 11 Jun (Bernama) -- MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik is happy that the Barisan Nasional retained the Teluk Kemang parliamentary seat in yesterday's by-election, but wants an indepth analysis of the result to see if there are any lessons to be learnt.

"I can't comment further because I want to do an indepth analysis of the outcome first," he told reporters who sought his comment on the result, after opening the Pahang MCA delegates meeting here.

Dr Ling, who is the Transport Minister, said the BN had to analyse the outcome so that if there were any lessons to be learnt, it should be done without any delay.

"Let us quickly analyse it and learn the lessons so that we do not repeat mistakes, if any," he said.

BN candidate S.Sothinathan won the by-election with a reduced majority of 5,972 votes. He polled 24,500 votes against 18,528 by Parti Keadilan Nasional's Ruslan Kasim.

On the drop in support from Chinese voters, Dr Ling said: "I will not comment until I have seen the results... which boxes show what results."

He agreed that the BN's victory in Teluk Kemang and in the recent Sanggang state by-election was a new endorsement for the coalition after last November's general election, he said, "Yes, we have maintained the majority support of the people."

In JASIN, Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam said the lower voter turnout yesterday compared to the general election last November could have contributed to the reduced majority obtained by the BN.

He said the opposition had failed to win over voters by allegedly raising racial issues and the dissatisfaction among pig farmers over the quantum of compensation paid for pigs destroyed following the JE and Nipha viral outbreak last year.

The people had assessed the capabilities of the BN government based on the promises it made in the general election, he told reporters.

In ALOR SETAR, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said the BN's victory yesterday showed that voters continued to go for political stability.

It also reflected the people's confidence in the government's ability to restore the country's economy, he said.

"These two factors are in turn due to the unity and cooperation that exist among the components of the ruling party, Barisan Nasional," he told reporters.

Syed Razak said people were able to see the unity in Umno when the top two party posts were uncontested recently.

"Thus, the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is still acknowledged and accepted by the people," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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