

Taib: Results show Malays are not disunited as claimed

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KUCHING, Thurs. — Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, celebrating Barisan Nasional's landslide victory last night, said in most constituencies the BN had an increased majority, showing the people's appreciation for the coalition's rule the past five years.

"The result has also shown that the Malays are not disunited as claimed by the Opposition. It in fact showed that the Malays have become even closer."

Commenting on the performance of Pas and Keadilan, he said their candidates lost de-

posits in 12 constituencies.

He said Pas candidates received less than 3,000 votes in the whole of Sarawak and this was a clear indication that the Muslims here rejected the parties.

He said the landslide victory also showed that the people of Sarawak do not want to be dragged into the politics of the Peninsula.

"We need Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to boldly lead Malaysia in times of difficulty," he added.

Asked to comment how the

BN lost the Meluan seat to an Independent, Taib said it was not a sign of the people going against the BN.

Even in Kidurong, he said the BN lost due to the popularity of the DAP candidate.

"Policy matters were definitely not the reason why we lost the two seats."

Taib refused to comment on Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha's defeat in Asajaya, merely saying:

"If my political secretary can win handsomely in Asajaya, I don't think I need to say more."