

# PM: Dirty tactics of PAS and Keadilan rejected

**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri:** The failure of PAS and Parti Keadilan Nasional to win any seat in yesterday's Sarawak election shows the people's rejection of their "dirty tactics".

The Umno Supreme Council, in its meeting today, welcomed the Barisan Nasional's landslide victory.

At the same time, it also noted the reasons for the people's rejection of both the opposition parties.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told a press conference that

dirty tactics and the use of abusive words by PAS and Keadilan contributed to their defeat.

"Dirty politics like using threats and foul words have been rejected by the people of Sarawak and this is a good sign for democracy in our country as well as for BN's future."

Mahathir said Umno thanked Sarawak BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud for the victory and the party will soon send a letter to congratulate him.

Yesterday, BN comfortably retained its two-thirds

majority in the state assembly, winning 60 of the 62 seats.

In 1999, the BN won 58 seats. Among the opposition parties, only the DAP managed to win a seat in Kidurong but its victory was dampened by its failure to retain the Bukit Assek seat.

The other seat not won by BN went to an independent candidate.

Mahathir said the Umno Sabah state liaison chief position, held by former chief minister Datuk Osu Sukam, will now go to Osu's

deputy, Datuk Musa Aman.

For Pahang, he said the deputy state liaison chief position, held by party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaacob, will be occupied by party vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

He said the party had decided that Khalil, who is also the information minister, should concentrate more on ministry and party matters.

This, Mahathir said, was because Umno will "enhance party activities soon".