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Likas-PAS

IT'S AN "UNGENTLEMANLY" VICTORY, SAYS NIK AZIZ OF BN'S WIN

GUA MUSANG, July 22 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat has decried the Barisan Nasional (BN)'s win in the Likas by-election in Sabah as an "ungentlemanly" victory.

He said the BN had succeeded in retaining the Likas state seat through various undemocratic practices as well as imposition of various restrictions on the opposition parties.

With the BN going all out during the campaign period, PAS knew that a landslide victory seemed imminent for the BN, he said.

It was an "ungentlemanly" victory as the BN was using its power which was inhibiting freedom of democracy, he told reporters after a meet-the-people session with the Orang Asli community at the Kuala Betis Resettlement Scheme, about 40km from here.

Nik Aziz said the opposition parties also faced various restrictions, relying only on ceramah to reach the voters as they did not get media coverage.

"The opposition was prevented from telling the people the truth. So, we have to rely only on PAS official organ (Harakah) ...even that, its production is restricted," he said.

In the by-election, BN candidate Datuk Yong Teck Lee was returned with a majority of 7,541 votes, defeating Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS)'s Dr Chong Eng Leong (2,217 votes), Liew Chin Jin @ Christina Liew (1,724 votes) of Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilian) and Independent Joshua Kong Yun Chee (50 votes).

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's challenge to PAS to clarify its idea of an Islamic state in writing, Nik Aziz said there was no need for PAS to do that.

He said the people could judge for themselves as to the success and effectiveness of PAS rule in Kelantan and Terengganu.

"The Islamic style of government in Kelantan and Terengganu which calls on the people to distance themselves from activities contrary to Islam are well received by many people," he said.

He said that since it came to power in 1990, the PAS government in Kelantan had closed down gambling outlets and banned activities contrary to Islam.

--BERNAMA

RAR ABG