

27 SEP 2001

Sarawak-Reaction (Leaders)

PAK LAH CONGRATULATES S'WAK BN FOR THUMPING WIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has congratulated the Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN) for its landslide win in the state election today and said the people have made a wise choice.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the victory showed that the BN had worked hard and gained the confidence of the people in Sarawak.

Abdullah, who is in Saudi Arabia on a visit since Monday, also congratulated all the victorious BN candidates.

The BN could ensure the continued progress of Sarawak and the people had made the right choice by returning the coalition to power, said Abdullah, who is BN deputy chairman.

"With this mandate, the Sarawak state Barisan Nasional government can continue with its development programmes for Sarawak to ensure the people's well-being," he said.

He also thanked the people of Sarawak for placing their trust in the BN.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said the victory reflected the confidence of voters and the Sarawak people in the BN leadership.

"I believe this is the response and appreciation of voters for Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud. I am confident the BN leadership will once again give him the trust to lead the BN government in Sarawak," he said when interviewed by RTM.

Khalil, who is Umno secretary-general, said the voters had made the most appropriate decision by not giving any seat to parties which were less established in the state.

He hoped that the people's confidence in the BN would inspire its victorious candidates to continuing serving the people well.

In terms of the overall national scenario, the BN win in Sarawak augured well for the BN government in Malaysia, he said.

"I hope the whole world will see and be confident in the BN leadership. The Sarawak state election is a true statement...in terms of leadership, administration and the spirit of the BN government itself," he said.

Commenting on BN's loss of only two seats and the failure of PAS candidates, Khalil said the Sarawak BN had been expected to win by a two-thirds majority.

"This is based on the excellent service record of the Barisan Nasional in Sarawak which is difficult to be matched by any party. We also know that the assemblymen there look after their constituencies well.

"The most interesting thing is the way Tan Sri Abdul Taib timed the election and this also contributed to the BN victory," he said.

The two seats which slipped from the BN were Kidurong which was won by the DAP and Meluan which went to an Independent.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu described the victory as the greatest gift from the people of Sarawak to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"This confirms that his leadership is foolproof," he said.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said the people wanted Dr Mahathir to get stronger, happier and stay in good health for many, many years.

He congratulated Abdul Taib, who is Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) president, for the resounding win.

"He is the man who built Sarawak from scratch to a very beautiful state. He brought a lot of development. His leadership is proven," he said.

Samy Vellu said he was happy that the BN had grown stronger and that the people of Sarawak had rejected the lies spread by the opposition.

"All the dirty tactics used by the opposition have been completely rejected," he said.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu described the victory as the greatest gift from the people of Sarawak to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"This confirms that his leadership is foolproof," he said.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said the people wanted Dr Mahathir to get stronger, happier and stay in good health for many, many years.

He congratulated Abdul Taib, who is Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) president, for the resounding win.

"He is the man who built Sarawak from scratch to a very beautiful state. He brought a lot of development. His leadership is proven," he said.

Samy Vellu said he was happy that the BN had grown stronger and that the people of Sarawak had rejected the lies spread by the opposition.

"All the dirty tactics used by the opposition have been completely rejected," he said.

Gerakan secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye said the decision of the people in Sarawak was most welcome as it was a vote for national development.

"The decision to vote for Barisan Nasional shows that they are positive looking, and it is even more appropriate at a time when the government is handling uncertainty in the aftermath of what happened in the United States," he said.

Chia said the strong mandate given to the BN would help the country's leaders overcome any problems faced by the people, including the economic slowdown.

-- BERNAMA

DC SHS KHY YBY