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Sarawak-Taib

VICTORY WILL INSPIRE BN TO WORK HARD, SAYS ABDUL TAIB

KUCHING, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- The landslide victory by Barisan Nasional (BN) in the just concluded Sarawak state election will spur the state assemblymen to work with greater determination to bring development to the state, said Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

The win showed that the efforts of the government in the past five years had received recognition from the people in the state, he said.

"The people's confidence will spur the BN to scrutinise its strategy to intensify development efforts although we are expected to face the effects of the world economic recession," he said.

He said this at a media conference immediately after all the election results were announced with BN winning 60 of the 62 seats contested.

Abdul Taib said the government would try to find an alternative approach so that the world economic recession would not hamper the efforts to continue with the development of the state.

The Chief Minister also said it was the people's aspiration to see and benefit from further progress and to prepare to face the challenges of globalisation.

"It is more important than other issues, that is why they demonstrated strong solidarity because they are determined to move forward," he said.

He said the people must be looked after by the BN through the education system and the enhancement of skills in modern technology as stated in the BN manifesto.

Abdul Taib said in the election this time the people had shown stronger support for the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"That's why there may be a swing back from the results of the last parliamentary election," he said.

He said with the victory, he hoped the BN leadership, especially at the federal level, would be appreciated by the people in facing the world economic recession which was also expected to affect Malaysia.

"We need Dr Mahathir .. this is what the people of Sarawak said...even in time of difficulty we will support him all out," he said.

On the BN defeats in Kidurong to the DAP and in Meluan to the Independent candidate, Abdul Taib said it was not a sign that the people in the two constituencies rejected the BN policies.

"The DAP's victory in Kidurong is due to the popularity of the candidate," he said.

Asked on the thrashing suffered by the group of independent candidates led by former Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha, Abdul Taib said: "I have avoided making any statement about Abang Abu and I don't want to make any tonight."

--BERNAMA

MT ZAI AO