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Yong thanks voters for fresh mandate

KOTA KINABALU, Sat. - Sabah Progressive Party president Datuk Yong Teck Lee - who retained the Likas State seat for the fifth time tonight - thanked voters for giving him a fresh mandate, saying that his victory was for the people of Sabah.

Yong, the Barisan Nasional candidate, also thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for giving him the confidence to contest in Likas.

"I also thank the BN election machinery and supporters led by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," he said after the result was announced at Dewan Maksak.

He said his victory proved that the people of Sabah had rejected unruly campaign tactics promoted by the Opposition.

Parti Bersatu Sabah candidate Dr Chong Eng Leong, who lost again to Yong, said his defeat was not the defeat of the party but the loss of the people.

"I am not disappointed ... winning or losing never crossed my mind.

"I just wanted to pass my message of how easy it is for foreigners to become citizens (of Malaysia)," Dr Chong said in reference to the party's struggle to highlight the issue of phantom voters and foreigners obtaining identification documents.

Dr Chong spoke for a minute before he was booed by emotional supporters from other camps.

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