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Mahathir-Indera

PM VERY PLEASED WITH BN'S BIG WIN IN INDERA KAYANGAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is very happy with the convincing victory by the Barisan Nasional which retained the Indera Kayangan state seat in Perlis in today's by-election with a bigger majority.

"I am very happy with the BN's thumping win. I congratulate all those who have campaigned so well to ensure a victory for the BN.

"I also congratulate (Perlis Menteri Besar) Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim for redeeming BN's integrity," Dr Mahathir said when interviewed by telephone over Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM)'s TV1 after a televised announcement of the by-election results tonight.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, also congratulated the BN candidate Ooi Ah Lan for defeating her Keadilan challenger Khoo Yang Chong by a majority of 2,592 votes in the by-election.

Ooi polled 4,279 votes while Khoo, 1,687 votes.

Ooi's majority was 618 votes more than the 1,974 vote-majority earned by BN's Datuk Khor Liang Tee in the 1999 general election. Khor's death due to colon cancer on Dec 19 led to the by-election.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, when interviewed by RTM at the vote-tallying centre in Kangar tonight, said the BN's victory proved Ooi's credibility and the people's acceptance of her.

"The victory showed that the masses still want the BN. The bigger majority reflects their continuing support for the BN.

"This is a very significant victory," Abdullah said, describing it as a victory for all and as an endorsement of Dr Mahathir's leadership at the federal level and that of Shahidan's at the state level.

-- BERNAMA

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