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Mahathir-Victory

MAHATHIR ATTRIBUTES BN'S RESOUNDING VICTORY TO ABDULLAH'S LEADERSHIP

KUALA LUMPUR, April 4 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight attributed the Barisan Nasional (BN)'s resounding victory to the leadership of his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said the setting up of the Puteri Umno wing was another factor contributing to the BN's landslide victory in the recent 11th general election.

"This time around the BN received over 90 per cent of the votes, an extraordinary achievement indeed. I did an analysis and discovered many factors attributing to the achievement," he said in his keynote address at the 10th anniversary dinner of the Cheras Umno here.

"The main reason is the leadership of Abdullah and the Puteri Umno wing," he said.

He said the fact that the opposition PAS did not have issues to be exploited in the general election also helped to swing the votes to the BN.

Dr Mahathir said the move by PAS to spin old records such as the "kafir-mengkafir" issues had backfired, causing it to lose the support of many of its supporters.

"Another factor could be because I'm no longer the prime minister," he said to the laughter of those present.

He also said Umno had stood the test of time and remained strong to these days because of its politics of willing to share power with other political parties in the country.

Dr Mahathir said this philosophy had brought many good to the country in terms of security and development.

This would not be easy to achieve in a country with various races such as Malaysia, he said.

-- BERNAMA

VP HK ABG