

DPM tells why BN missed 4k target

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By Lee Long Hui

BN deputy chief Muhyiddin Yassin said BN's inability to achieve its 4,000 vote majority target in Kuala Besut was due to overconfidence among some BN supporters who did not turn up at the ballot box.

He added that the less than expected turnout rate, which was 7 percent lower than the last general election, was also due to the slower pace of life during the month of Ramadan.

"Of course we would have expect more majority but because of the fasting month, you know, things are slow. Even those people who want to come out to vote also take their own time.

"Some thought BN will win so they would not come out to vote, which (happened today) with less than 80 percent (of voters turning up)," he told reporters at the Besut district council hall after the by-election results were announced.

However, he stressed that BN had increased its majority and this was paramount. The increase was a meagre 158 votes.

BN candidate Tengku Zaihan Che Ku Abdul Rahman defeated PAS' Azlan Yusof to retain Kuala Besut for BN with a 2,592 votes of majority, a 158 vote improvement over GE13.

Second Finance Minister Idris Jusoh previously said he was confident that BN can achieve a 4,000 vote majority this time round.

'If I had a magic stick'

On criticisms over BN's electoral pledges that carry a total price tag of RM477 million, Muhyiddin said that it was merely a "coincidence" that these projects were launched during the campaign period.

"(Such allegation) is very normal, and as I said, we do these projects not because of the by-election and we will continue (to do so) all the time. It's a coincidence that it was done during the by-election.

"I don't think we should underestimate the decision of the voters, it clearly shows

that some parties wants to see our majority drop but the fact is the other way round," he added.

The deputy prime minister also assured that BN will fulfill all its promises made during the campaign period.

Citing the RM250 million International Tourist Gateway as an example, he said that the project will be completed in under three years.

"We will come out a suitable timeframe, but the important thing is the people want to see whether this is a fairy tale or we are seriously want to do it.

"Look at my face, when I announced (the project), we (will) do it... If I have a magic stick, (then) once I announce it, I will deliver it (immediately)."

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