

PAS thanks PR partners, sends congrats to BN
Malaysianmirror.com
05 November 2010

GUA MUSANG - It was a double blow for Pakatan Rakyat after being defeated in both Galas and Batu Sapi.

But far from feeling dejected, some of the earliest reactions from PAS leaders have been one of appreciation to their partners while congratulating their nemesis Barisan Nasional.

mahfuz-jan4PAS vice president Mahfuz Omar (left) thanked all PR volunteers who travelled from all over the country to Galas over the last few days to help the party in its campaign to retain the Galas state seat.

"We admit our weaknesses and we are prepared to rectify our mistakes," Mahfuz posted on Twitter.

Congratulating BN over both wins, Mahfuz displayed his trademark wit: "So let's call snap elections and renew your mandate."

Mahfuz also urged supporters to work harder, saying the defeats in Batu Sapi and Galas should be made a lesson similar to the one experienced in Ijok, Selangor prior to the political tsunami in 2008.

PAS Youth chief meanwhile said that any defeat in a by-election did not mean one had lost the struggle, according to Harakahdaily.

"As long as we side with truth, it will be victorious. Be patient and stick to our principles and morals," said Nasrudin Hassan Tantawi.

Earlier, BN's Abdul Aziz Yusoff won by 1,190 votes in Galas with 5,324 votes, against PAS candidate Dr Zulkefli Mohamed who garnered 4,134 votes. There were 132 spoilt votes in the state constituency which saw a voter turnout of 83 per cent.

For the Batu Sapi parliamentary seat, Linda Tsen managed to retain her late husband's seat for BN by a majority of 6,359 with 9,773 votes, against PKR's Ansari Abdullah who got 3,414 votes and SAPP's Yong Teck Lee who polled 2,013 votes. The constituency however saw only 61.47 per cent of eligible voters turning out.

Meanwhile, according to Harakahdaily, state PAS election director Abdul Fatah Harun said the party would carry out a post mortem to look into its performance.

Fatah said he was satisfied with the campaign, saying there had been strong support from PR supporters.

However, he said there had been reports that some supporters did not cast their votes or failed to do so.

Fatah also attributed the stronger support among Orang Asli voters for BN to the use of government machinery such as the Department of Orang Asli Affairs (JHEOA), the army and Rela members.

"Whatever the reason, PAS will conduct a post mortem to identify the reason behind the

loss of votes. There are other side factors besides the Federal government's machinery," he was quoted as saying by Harakahdaily.

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