

Work hard, Barisan reps told

Abdullah unhappy with EC's work

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has said he expects the victorious Barisan Nasional candidates to work hard for their respective constituents.

In his first comments telecast live after the Barisan had won a simple majority, the Prime Minister congratulated the winners.

He was speaking in a video conferencing with Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim from the Umno, headquarters at the Putra World Track Centre here early today. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was present.

Abdullah said he was happy that the voters in the various states had come out in large numbers, exceeding the number of voters in the last general election in 1999.

Barisan was returned to power in Perlis as announced by Election Commission chairman Tan Sri Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman over television at 12.15 am when it won eight of the 15 state seats to record a convincing win.

Asked to analyse the trend of Chinese voters, he said, the majority of them were still with Barisan.

"I understand that MCA too has won many seats," he said.

On the Election Commission, Abdullah said he had lodged a complaint with the EC over the debacle.

"I was very unhappy, in fact I



was angry because there were many Malaysians who had registered as voters and deprived of their rights.

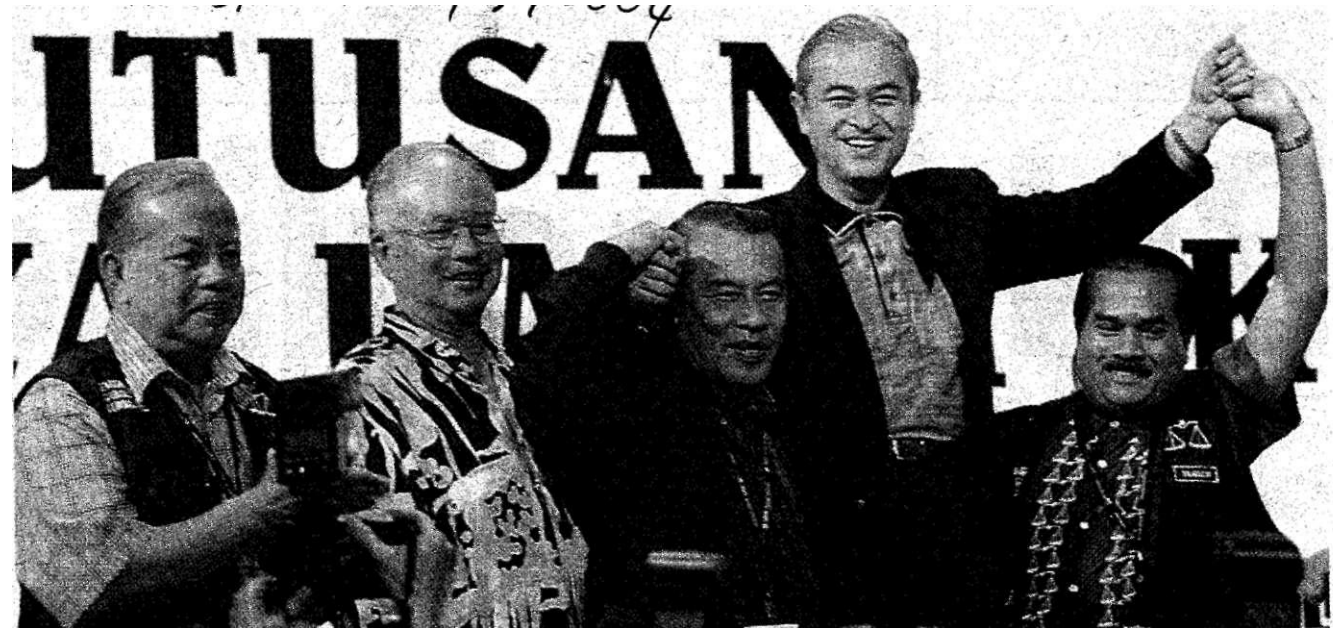
"Many of these people who could not vote were Barisan Nasional supporters. They have already checked with us their status and yet they found out later they could not vote," he said.

Abdullah said he would have an audience with the King tomorrow to inform him that the Barisan was ready to form the new government.

He said he would decide on the Cabinet line-up after the audience with the King, adding that he would include a few fresh faces, in the Cabinet.

On Terengganu, he said: "I am very happy as we never expected to take over the state. I only expected a better performance."

Abdullah said he was awaiting for an official announcement on Kelantan and was happy with the achievement thus far in the state.



WELL DONE: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi being chaired by Barisan Nasional executive secretary Datuk Yaacob Mohammad (right) and Umno executive secretary Brig Jen (Rtd) Datuk Hussainy Hussein at PWTC yesterday after the announcement of the coalition's victory. Sharing the joy (from left) are Tan Sri Khali! Yaakob and Najib.

Adnan is first MP of Putrajaya

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the seat today at 10am.

Among the Kelantan winners, a big surprise was Datuk Ibrahim Ali in Pasir Mas who contested as an independent candidate, following his removal as the Pasir Mas Umno division chief.

Another independent, Datuk John Ghani, who was Sabah Umno deputy information chief, denied the Sabah Barisan a clean sweep of all 60 state seats by winning the Kuala Penyu state seat. He has announced his intention to rejoin Umno.

The MCA also created history

when its Sabah chief Datuk Edward Khoo took the Keparayan state seat. The party also won back its seats in Kelantan and Terengganu.

The first hints of a Barisan sweep came at 9pm as news spread of the coalition gaining strongly in the two PAS-ruled states.

The first result of a Barisan winner came from, appropriately, Putrajaya, when just after 7pm Tengku Adnan Mansor was declared victor of the parliamentary seat, making him the first MP of the country's administrative capital.

At 12.50am, the Barisan had

attained a simple majority of 110 parliamentary seats.

By 1.45am, Barisan's tally had surged to 146 seats, securing a two-thirds majority in Parliament: The total reached 179 seats at 2.15am.

The Opposition which in 1999 held 41 seats (DAP 10, PAS 26 and Keadilan five) had won only 14 (DAP 10, PAS four and Keadilan none) and one independent.

The election went smoothly except in certain places where the process was marred by confusion when voters complained that their names were not on the electoral roll. In

some cases, voting centres did not open because of computer glitches.

Barisan component party leaders all won comfortably.

Abdullah and his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak easily won their Kepala Batas and Pekan parliamentary seats respectively.

The other victorious Barisan leaders included MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting in Tanjung Piai, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu in Sungai Siput, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik in Beruas, PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas in Taiping.