

All 9MP projects will be implemented, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Although Barisan Nasional lost nine seats in Sarawak, it would still implement all the projects promised for the State under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi pledged.

He said they would fulfil the promise of balanced development between the urban and rural areas.

Congratulating Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud on the victory,

he thanked the Sarawak people for having confidence in BN and giving it more than a two-thirds majority to form the State Government.

"I thank the people, party workers and the voters in Sarawak for backing the BN Government and for giving us the opportunity to continue serving them," he said.

Abdullah spoke to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in an eight-minute telephone conversation from

Egypt, where he is attending the World Economic Forum.

Earlier, Najib held a teleconference with Taib to get the latest on the election results. Najib was at the Angkasapuri foyer here while Taib was in his residence in Kuching.

Abdullah especially thanked the rural people who continued to back BN.

He said BN must carry out a post-mortem on the reasons for the loss in urban areas.

"Although we respect the

voters' decision we need to know why they had a different opinion of BN."

Later, at a Press conference Najib said although he had expected BN to lose several seats to the Opposition, he did not expect the coalition to give up nine seats.

Najib said the Opposition should not be overjoyed by the victory.

"We should bear in mind that there was an increase in the number of seats and the

boundaries had been delineated, which helped the Opposition to win the seats.

Eleven new seats were created under the delineation."

Asked if Keadilan was gaining ground since it won one seat, Najib said the people of Sarawak did not have confidence in Keadilan.

"The Keadilan candidate who won is a Chinese."

Najib said he would ask Taib to carry out an analysis of the election results.

"We will take this as a lesson and try to improve ourselves and look into the reasons and correct the mistakes.

"We will look at it from the voters' point of view."

Nevertheless, he said it was an election success for BN because it had won by a more than two-thirds majority.

"The BN can form a stable and strong Government and need not be worried about problems from the Opposition."