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Abdullah: BN to form govt with simple majority

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KUALA LUMPUR: Barisan Nasional has secured a simple majority and coalition chief Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will meet the Yang di-Pertuan Agong tomorrow about forming a government.

Abdullah met the media at 2.20am today, about 30 minutes after the Election Commission had declared BN the winner with a simple majority.

"I want to announce that the BN made a decision to form a government with a simple majority. I will go to the Agong on Monday to seek permission to form a government.

"On the overall election results, I will make a statement after everything is completed," said a tired-looking but calm Abdullah, who was flanked by his wife Datin Paduka Seri Jeanne Abdullah and his deputy, Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Present were MCA chief Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Radzi Sheikh Ahmad and Umno information chief Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

Asked about BN not obtaining the expected two-thirds majority, Abdullah said the results of the polls were not final yet.

"At the moment, it is not two-thirds. We will see what happens when the final announcement is made by the Election Commission," he said as flash bulbs popped away.

On the results, he said the people had made their stand and decided to increase "their strength" by denying the BN a two-thirds majority. I will talk about all this later".

Asked what was the message from the people, he said there were all kinds of messages. "We will have to look at it and I will answer later," he said during the press conference that lasted 10 minutes.

Asked if his party had pressured him to step down, he said: "I don't know who is pressuring me to quit."

Asked about the implication of the loss of several seats by coalition leaders, he said: "Kalah ... kalah-lah (lose, lose lah)."