

# Landslide for BN

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- Terengganu regained
- Strong gains in Kelantan
- Keadilan crushed

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun.** — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi delivered the Barisan Nasional one of its best-ever victories in a general election, demolishing Pas and Keadilan, winning back control of Terengganu and approaching within a hair's breadth of retaking Kelantan.

At Press time, the BN had won 192 seats in the expanded 219-seat Dewan Rakyat, scoring more than a four-fifths majority.

It also took control of all the State Governments, while a recount was under way in Kelantan where the BN was leading by 21 seats to 18 with six seats undeclared.

Abdullah was indisputably the man of the hour; his style of leadership and his agenda of reform clearly giving his coalition the advantage over the Opposition.

Immediately after the official two-thirds majority was declared, Abdullah re-affirmed his promise that all BN elected representatives would be tasked with giving the best possible service to their constituents. "This is my commitment to you."

BN secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, speaking to the *New Straits Times* earlier, probably summed up the election results best when he said: "It's 99.9 per cent due to Pak Lah."

There was little doubt that it was the feel-good sentiment surrounding Abdullah's first four months in office and the widespread acceptance of his brand of *Islam Hadhari*, or progressive Islam, that propelled the BN to victory.

At a news conference about 2.30am, Abdullah said the results



**THANK YOU:** A jubilant Abdullah waving to party workers and supporters at the PWTC this morning. With him are Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Abdullah's wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood and Najib's wife Datuk Rosmah Mansor. — NST picture by Radzi Bujang

## Abdullah to be sworn in as PM today

DATUK Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be sworn in as Prime Minister at Istana Negara at 2pm today following the Barisan Nasional's overwhelming victory in the 11th general election.

were clear evidence that Malaysians rejected Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang and extremism.

The Prime Minister was also asked about the resurgence of the DAP which saw two of its top leaders — Lim Kit Siang and Karpal Singh — who lost in 1999, making a comeback.

"Who am I to say anything if the people want them?" Abdullah said.

Pas and Keadilan leaders fell like ten-pins, surprising even the most optimistic of BN supporters and leaders.

The sweetest taste of redemption was Umno's sweep of Terengganu and its strong showing in Kelantan.

After 14 years in the wilderness, BN surprised the pundits and was on the verge of victory against Pas' Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat and his cohorts.

The performance in Terengganu was even more stunning, where even Pas president Hadi fell by the wayside in his bid to win the Marang parliamentary seat and conceded defeat late last night.

However, a defiant Nik Aziz in-

sisted Pas had won 24 seats in Kelantan and said he had instructed his legal adviser to proceed with the formation of the State Government.

The political landscape of Kedah and Perlis was littered with the dashed dreams of Datuk Dr Haron Din, Mohamad Sabu and Mahfuz Omar, as BN won control of the State Assemblies with relative ease.

Other trends in Elections 2004:

● **The revival of the DAP:** The DAP, on an unofficial count, won 13 parliamentary seats, three more than in 1999, including veteran leaders Lim Kit Siang and Karpal Singh who revived their political fortunes in Ipoh Timur and Bukit Gelugor respectively.

However, the party's secretary-general, Kerk Kim Hock fell in its traditional stronghold of Kota Melaka.

● **The demise of Parti Keadilan Nasional:** All its candidates were

defeated, including Datin Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, in the Permatang Pauh parliamentary constituency by a narrow margin of 36 votes. The results were not final as there will be a re-count tomorrow.

The seat had once been held by her husband, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim,

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