

**Barisan Nasional Returns To Power**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has received his first election mandate from the people to continue to lead the country as the sixth prime minister after the Barisan Nasional (BN) secured 133 parliamentary seats in the 13th General Election.

The opposition alliance captured the remaining 89 seats, seven more than their 2008 total, but this time, DAP took the biggest share of 38 while PKR maintained 30 and PAS had 21 seats.

The BN has also regained Kedah and retained Pahang, Perlis, Perak, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Terengganu, Sabah and Johor.

Najib said the BN could have performed better if not for the distortion and lies hurled by the opposition and also the racial sentiment drummed up in the election that whipped up hatred and anger against the coalition.

The BN victory was powered by Umno while Sabah and Sarawak remained as "fixed deposits" for the BN by delivering 47 seats between them.

It was still a historic moment for Najib and the nation because it is the first time a son of a former prime minister has successfully led the 13-party coalition through the polls which had a record of 13.27 million registered voters.

Najib had campaigned tirelessly throughout the country to convince voters of the transformation within the BN and the pledges in the BN's manifesto, which places the people's interest first, and to take Malaysia to new heights.

The BN chairman and several leaders of the component parties had gathered at the BN headquarters at Menara Dato Onn in the capital to await the outcome of the election.

However, it was another disastrous outing by the MCA, the second biggest component party in the coalition, and Gerakan as they fared even worse than in 2008.

Election Commission chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof made a televised announcement at nearly 1am when the BN achieved its simple majority of 112 seats.

Shortly, Najib appeared on 'live' television to thank the people for their support in returning the BN and urged all quarters, especially the opposition, to accept the outcome in line with the democratic process of the country.

He expressed concern over the swing of the Chinese voters against the BN, describing it as a "Chinese tsunami" which was very unhealthy for the country and caused by the racial sentiments fanned during the campaign.

"For the sake of the country, only policies that are moderate should be accepted as our national policies. I expected to some extent, but not this extent, but despite the extent of the swing against us, the BN did not fall and will continue," he told a news conference.

Najib said the government would next undertake the process of national reconciliation to reject extremism in favour of moderate and accommodative politics because if the polarisation was not addressed, it would lead to tension and conflict in the country.

The BN returned to Putrajaya on the wave of a big turnout at the ballot box of between 70 and 80 per cent, from 76 per cent in 2008.

Najib, who is BN chairman and Umno president, took over the reins of government four years ago, from Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in 2009, a year after the BN lost its two-thirds majority for the first time, despite retaining Parliament in 2008.

Najib ousted Parti Keadilan Rakyat's Mohd Fariz Abdul Talib with a bigger majority of 35,613 over his 2008 margin of 26,464 also against a PAS rival, to retain his stronghold in Pekan, the political seat of his father, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, who was the country's second prime minister.

BN deputy chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was a strong winner in Pagoh again, bundling out Mohamad Rozali Jamil in excess of 12,842 votes.

BN component party leaders, MIC president Datuk Seri G. Palanivel and Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party president Tan Sri William Mawan, won the Cameron Highlands and Saratok seats, respectively.

Palanivel, who lost in Hulu Selangor in 2008, had a 462-vote majority over his close challenger M. Manogaran (DAP) in a five-way tussle while Mawan prevailed with a 2,081 margin in a three-way fight.

Three BN component party leaders suffered defeats with PPP president Datuk Seri M.Kayveas losing in the Pasir Pedar state seat in Perak while in Sabah, United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok was beaten in Penampang and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president Datuk Lui Vui Keong lost in Sandakan.

MCA, the second biggest BN component party, won only seven out of 37 parliamentary seats and only 11 of 90 state seats the party contested.

The party suffered the defeats of party secretary-general Datuk Seri Kong Chong Ha, former transport minister, in Lumut, vice-president Datuk Seri Chor Chee Heung, former housing and local government minister, in Alor Setar and former deputy home minister Datuk Lee Chee Leong in Kampar.

MCA deputy president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai survived narrowly with only a 376-vote advantage over DAP's Wong Tack in Bentong.

Gerakan won only one parliament and three state seats. It had contested in 11 parliament and 31 state constituencies.

MIC won four of nine parliament seats contested including the big fight in Segamat where Datuk Dr S.Subramaniam retained the seat after defeating Datuk Chua Jui Meng of PKR with a 1,217 majority.

In the 'hot seat' contest, former Johor menteri besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman lost the battle for Gelang Patah to DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang by 14,762 votes.

BN secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor defeated PAS vice-president Datuk Husam Musa for a third term in Putrajaya, with his highest- ever majority of 5,541 in the federal administrative capital.

In the Lembah Pantai derby here, PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar fought off Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin, previously the federal territories and urban well-being minister, to win with 1,847 votes.

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