

New Mandate For BN Proves Malaysians Prefer Moderation
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- The fresh mandate given to Barisan Nasional (BN) to form the federal government this morning has proven that Malaysians give priority to moderation as the best way of life in a multi-racial country.

The Election Commission announced that BN had won by a simple majority of 112 seats from the 222 seats in Parliament at 12.50am. This was followed by the announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on the success of BN in a media conference which was telecast 'live' nationwide.

Despite being offered sweeteners by the opposition coalition, voters closely examined the opposition itself which appeared to be extreme in their campaign in attracting voter support but the tactic scared them off.

A clear example was the strong objection by DAP against the implementation of the syariah and hudud laws while in contrast, PAS appeared to be set on implementing them.

The majority of the people who were steadfast in keeping the status quo obviously voted for BN which has since handled the issue well without making it a polemic to be manipulated for votes.

Political analyst, Dr Ibrahim Ghafar said the people also looked at what they perceived were extreme promises made in the opposition manifesto which included the drastic lowering of car prices and petrol, writing off student education loans, various cash handouts and a minimum salary of RM1,200.

"It is not that the people do not want them but they have scrutinised them carefully. What if the latest income tax has to be raised several fold to fund all the sweet promises.

"That is merely to fulfill the promises in the opposition manifesto such as the abolition of toll," he told Bernama today.

As a result, people were more inclined to believe in moderation offered by BN which opted for a gradual implementation of the promises it made so as not to burden the government's finances.

"However, the new BN government should look to ways to lower prices of goods and services to reward the people for returning BN to power in GE13," he added.

Ibrahim fully supported the aspirations announced by Najib in the BN victory media conference to carry out national reconciliation which was considered appropriate in uniting the nation as achieving the goals of Vision 2020 was just seven years away.

"Nevertheless, reconciliation cannot be carried out by Najib and BN alone but it needed the sincerity of the opposition as well. The people have made their choice democratically and in a democracy, the voice of the majority should be respected and well accepted.

"The opposition needs to accept the results and choice of the people. Let's work hard to

drive Malaysia towards a developed nation with high income in which the benefits are enjoyed by all including the opposition. If need be, contest again in the next five years," he said.

As part of the reconciliation efforts, he said Chinese, Indian, Malay and young voters need to reflect upon themselves and evaluate honestly the extent to which Najib has tried to meet all their needs and how much they have reciprocated this by voting BN.

"In this regard, BN cannot be seen as trying to seek reconciliation alone while those who did not vote BN do not do their part," he said.

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