

CLEAR MANDATE: Time for Najib to fulfil task

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THE day of reckoning is finally over after 15 days of hard campaigning. Barisan Nasional has triumphed in the 13th General Election winning a simple majority of 133 of the 222 parliamentary seats with the people's mandate.

DAP won 38, PKR 30 and Pas 21 and Pakatan retained Penang, Selangor and Kelantan.

BN needs to do a lot of soul- searching and an in-depth analysis of why they failed to secure a two-thirds majority. Kudos to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his team for the hard work and his transformation programmes.

The economy will be a key priority under the government and economic transformation programmes to achieve Malaysia's goal of a high-income nation and Vision 2020. The nation was glued to the live telecast of the election results and I am happy that BN retained Negri Sembilan with 22 state and five parliamentary seats.

Election Commission chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof had announced that BN obtained a simple majority to form the Federal Government.

The sad episode now is the allegations by PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim that the general election was fraudulent and his demand for the EC to explain irregularities. The opposition leader had reiterated that foreign workers had voted in this election. Anwar just refuses to concede defeat.

MCA faced a political tsunami with most of their favourite candidates rejected by the Chinese community. Former Johor menteri besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman was defeated by Lim Kit Siang in Gelang Patah.

Other prominent casualties include former Malacca chief minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam who lost the Bukit Katil seat and former transport minister Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha who lost the Lumut seat.

Having said all that, BN and Pakatan must accept the outcome of the polls gracefully. The voters have spoken. The mandate has been given to BN. Najib and his new team will have a huge task to fulfil the five-year pledge of continuity and phenomenal transformation for the country.

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