

**Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri Happy With Smooth, Peaceful GE13 In State**  
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KOTA KINABALU, June 17 (Bernama) -- Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Juhar Mahiruddin Monday said he was happy with the handling of the recent 13th general election (GE13) in the state as it went on in a peaceful and orderly manner.

In this regard, he expressed his appreciation for and congratulated all quarters responsible, particularly the Election Commission and Royal Malaysian Police.

Juhar congratulated the Barisan Nasional government and elected state leaders including the Chief Minister (Datuk Seri Musa Aman) who received the people's mandate to continue developing the state.

In Sabah, BN secured two-thirds majority by winning 48 of the 60 state seats and 22 of the 25 parliamentary seats contested in the GE13, thus helping BN to form the state government and federal government respectively.

In his policy speech when opening the first term of the 14th Session of the Sabah State Legislative Assembly, in Kota Kinabalu, Juhar expressed hope that the close cooperation and ties between the state and federal governments would be further strengthened for smooth administration and development continuity in all aspects for the well-being of the people.

He urged all the assemblymen to provide the best service for the people by playing an active and effective role during the state assembly sittings by giving input and sound ideas on how to develop Sabah.

He said their debates must be based on sincerity and the spirit to improve the lives of the people and that their decisions must be in the interest of the people, state and country first.

Earlier, Juhar inspected the guard-of-honour mounted by 105 officers and members of the 16th battalion of the General Operations Force, in Kota Kinabalu, led by DSP Mohd Faridudin Abdul Kadir.

Present were Juhar's wife Toh Puan Noraidah RM Jasni, the chief minister, state assembly speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Tun Said, state cabinet members and other assemblymen.

Meanwhile, Sabah assemblymen supported the proposal to raise the salary of elected representatives in the state in line with the current economic expansion.

Pantai Manis assemblyman, Datuk Abdul Rahim Ismail said the salary increase should be considered because the people wanted them to work harder look after their welfare.

"The raise must be looked into based on the current situation and even if the increase is not like that in Sarawak, at least 100 per cent is adequate," said Abdul Rahim, who is former State Agriculture and Food Industry minister.

Lumadan State Assemblyman, Datuk Kamarlin Ombi, who is also state Tourism, Culture and Environment assistant Minister, said the proposal must be studied towards boosting the standard of living of the people.

Sabah opposition chief and Klias State Assemblyman, Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin said the opposition would study the proposal to determine its suitability in the current situation.

In May, the Sarawak State Assembly tripled the monthly salaries of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister, assistant minister and members of the State Assembly.

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