

'I will deliver'

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Pak Lah pledges to fulfil his promises

BY MERGAWATI ZULFAKAR

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who received a massive personal endorsement in the general election, has pledged he will fulfil the promises he has made.

The Prime Minister said he was "humbled" by the clear mandate the people had given to him.

"There is going to be more and more work that we have to carry out," he told a press conference at his residence here yesterday.

"I have told the people what I have been talking about is not just for the votes, not just elections but something I must do for the future."

Abdullah, clad in a black *baju melayu* before leaving for Istana Negara for the swearing-in ceremony, looked fresh and was in a jovial mood.

"I will try my best to ensure the government machinery at federal and state levels carry out the trust given to the government by the people," he said.

"They have complete faith in us and we will carry out what we have promised them in our manifesto," he added.

On Barisan coalition leaders attributing the landslide win to his image, Abdullah said he would continue to improve himself as a leader.

"I will try to look after myself. Other people can look after me too, by reminding me where I go wrong, when I do something that is not going to be good for Malaysia."

"I can accept people's ideas and opinions. I am prepared to listen to them. They may be right or

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PAS retains Kelantan after recount of six state seats

BY NICK LEONG AND SYED AZHAR

KOTA BARU: PAS retained Kelantan with a simple majority after a nail-biting finish in a recount of six state seats here yesterday.

The Election Commission made an announcement in Kuala Lumpur at 9pm that PAS had obtained a simple majority of 24 seats to enable it to form the state government.

The Barisan Nasional made a strong comeback by winning 21 seats in the 45-member state legislative assembly. In the 1999 general election, Barisan managed to win only two state seats in Kelantan.

Recounts were also carried out for several other seats, which had majorities of less than 2% of the votes cast.

Most recounts did not change the final outcome.

However, in Permatang Pauh, Penang, Parti Keadilan Nasional president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail was declared the winner with a majority of 590 over Barisan candidate Datuk Pirdaus Ismail.

Wan Azizah obtained 21,737 votes while Pirdaus secured 21,147 votes.

It was reported that she had lost in the first

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OATH OF OFFICE: Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail giving the letter of appointment and instruments of office to Abdullah after the Prime Minister's oath-taking ceremony at the Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — Bernamapic

Pak Lah: People prefer Barisan

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they may not be right. That is why I said, 'work with me.' Together we must work for Malaysia and Malaysians."

He also said he expected the coalition's elected representatives to work hard and inform the Government of problems faced by their constituents.

"They must submit their performance records every three months.

"We want them to stay away from corruption, have good character and meet the demands and requirements of the people.

"I will call them and talk to them if they are not performing."

On voters having rejected extremism, he replied:

"We can see that people like what Barisan plans to do. They prefer us. They like what we are trying to do and the way we want to do it."

On Barisan recapturing Terengganu, Abdullah said the immediate plan was to set up the state government.

Later in Kuala Lumpur, Abdullah took his oath of office as Prime Minister before Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail.

The ceremony, held at the Balai Rong Seri (Throne Room) of Istana Negara, here, was telecast live over RTM.

Raja Permaisuri Agong

Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid was present.

Abdullah was accompanied by his wife, Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood.

Also present were former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Abdullah, 64, signed the instruments of office witnessed by Chief Justice Tan Sri Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim.

Federal Territory Mufti Prof Dr Yusuff Hussain recited the *doa selamat* (prayers) at the ceremony.