

CRUSHING DEFEAT

PH TO REFLECT ON TANJUNG PIAI LOSS

Post-mortem to look into whether loss shows revival of BN's popularity or more a protest against PH

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PAKATAN Harapan will carry out a detailed post-mortem to establish the reasons behind its crushing defeat in the Tanjung Piai by-election.

The by-election, which concluded on Saturday, saw Barisan Nasional win with a whopping 15,086-vote majority.

PH chairman Tun Dr Mahathir

Mohamad said although PH anticipated defeat, it thought BN would win no more than a 2,000-vote majority.

"I take note and accept the decision by Tanjung Piai's constituents. It was predicted that the majority will lean towards the opposition.

"I had expected that the defeat would not be more than a 2,000-vote majority, but results showed a defeat by a 15,086-vote majority.

"An honest, serious and detailed post-mortem will be carried out at all levels in the coalition to ascertain causes of the defeat. I would like to thank all who worked hard for the by-election."

BN's Datuk Seri Dr Wee Jee Seng got a landslide victory after



Tun Dr Mahathir
Mohamad

polling 25,466 votes.

PH candidate Karmaine Sardini of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia received 10,380 votes, Gerakan's Wendy Subramaniam garnered 1,707 votes and Barisan Jemaah Islamiah Se-Malaysia candidate Datuk Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz polled 850 votes.

Independent candidates Faridah Aryani

Abd Ghaffar and Dr Ang Chuan Lock received 380 and 32 votes, respectively.

In **Bachok**, Kelantan, PKR secretary-general Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the post-mortem would analyse the performance of each of the 27 voting districts.

He said the upcoming PH Pres-

idential Council meeting would be the best platform to discuss the issue.

"Three perspectives will be studied. The first is whether this signifies a revival of BN's popularity or whether it is more a protest by the people against PH.

"The second is whether the defeat reflects the situation nationwide. The final one is to ensure there is no denial syndrome, that PH is ready to acknowledge that it is the voters' democratic right," he said after officiating a food bank programme at the Universiti Malaysia Kelantan campus here.

He said it was important to understand the message sent by the people.

"Strategies have to be changed. The effort is there, but perhaps a lack of clear communication led to the people being unaware (of efforts by the government)."

In **Johor Baru**, Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Sahrudin Jamal said the defeat should not be used as ammunition to assign blame.

Sahrudin, who was director of the PH by-election machinery, said the machinery did its best.

"The result was disappointing, but we accept the people's decision. I don't think anyone blames me as this was a collective effort from the federal to the state level.

"This isn't the time to play the blame game. What's important is for us to reflect and establish the reasons for the defeat," he said after an event in Taman Bukit Alif.

In **Kota Kinabalu**, Sabah Bersatu chief Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor said PH could not afford to ignore the Muafakat Nasional movement involving Umno and Pas.

"There must be things that the people are unhappy about concerning the PH administration, not just in Johor, but also at the federal level, possibly including the 14th General Election pledges that have yet to be fulfilled.

"PH cannot take lightly the cooperation between Pas and Umno. The collaboration seems to have had an impact on the Tanjung Piai by-election."

However, the Sulaman assemblyman said the defeat had not affected Bersatu's development or strength in Sabah. **Additional reporting by Avila Geraldine**



Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail



Pakatan Harapan and Barisan Nasional flags line the side of a road in Tanjung Piai. PH will look into whether the loss in the Tanjung Piai by-election reflects the sentiment nationwide. PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM