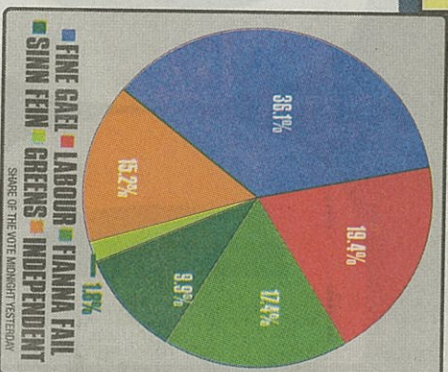


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MAN OF THE PEOPLE: Ecstatic crowds greet Enda Kenny in Castlebar last night

KENNY: JOBS ARE PRIORITY

BY GERALDINE COMISKEY

TAOISEACH-IN-WAITING Enda Kenny was mobbed as he entered the court centre in Castlebar just after 5pm yesterday. He had delivered four of the five seats in Mayo – and had brought Fine Gael to record seat number levels.

A group of at least six gardai had to protect him as well-wishers crushed forward and photographers tried to get a shot of the new messiah from the West.

There was a stampede as supporters jumped over the barriers to shake the leader's hands. He told the *Sunday World* he would not be resting today.

"We said we'll hit the ground running and we will. The country is in serious difficulty and we have to get to work straight away," he said.

"I'll be up and down to Dublin today and I'll be watching the count."

"There's no time for rest."

Ambitions

"This is a great day for the Fine Gael party. The party set out to achieve two ambitions principally. The first was to be the largest party in the Dail and that's been achieved.

"The second was to increase our vote and seats and that's also been achieved.

"We won't know the final conclusions, particularly until the Flanna Fail eliminations have taken place, as to where those votes will go because in many cases there isn't a second candidate for them to transfer to.

"That will have a bearing on a number of seats and it could be critical to the overall outcome.

"The lesson from this general election is that government should never remove



DELIGHTED: Enda with wife Fionnuala

"We will send out a clear message around the world that this country is open for business.

"We will then focus on the immediate priority of providing jobs and work opportunities for our people, that's been their crying want, that's been their crying need and that's going to be focus for the incoming government."

He described the election outcome as a "phenomenal result" and an "exceptional mandate".

"We don't have any time to lose, we don't have any hour to waste. The country can't borrow money, the banks can't borrow money.

"We are up to our necks."

He added: "I don't want a situation where this is going to be dragged out.

"I will be deciding on this very quickly. You don't want the wrong signals of delay and indecisiveness going to the European governments and beyond."

He promised he would "get this under way" as soon as he found out the final result of the election.

The people deserved a "strong and clear" government and would get one.

He promised to start work on discussions with Europe on the bailout terms this week.