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UMNO - ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, FEB. 8 (BERNAMA) -- AT LEAST SEVEN PEOPLE WILL BE CONTESTING FOR THREE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL PARTY POSTS DURING THE UMNO MALAYSIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE IN LATE JUNE.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER ENCIK ABDUL GHAFAR BABA AND PETRONAS CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE TENGKU TAN SRI RAZALEIGH HAMZAH WILL BE SEEKING RE-ELECTION.

HOWEVER, INCUMBENT VICE-PRESIDENT, PENANG GOVERNOR TAN SRI SARDON BIN JUBIR WILL NOT BE IN THE RACE.

MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES ENCIK MOHAMED KHIR JOHARI, DEWAN RAKYAT DEPUTY SPEAKER TAN SRI SYED NASIR ISMAIL AND UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER TAN SRI SYED JAAFAR ALBAR WILL BE CONTESTING.

BERNAMA ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED AND HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE ARE

EXPECTED TO BE CANDIDATES.

TAN SRI GHAZALI WAS DEFEATED IN 1972 WHEN HE SOUGHT ELECTION AS UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT. HE WAS, HOWEVER, APPOINTED TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL. -- BERNAMA MORE 1308/A1

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TWO OTHER VICE-PRESIDENTIAL POSTS ARE HELD BY SELANGOR MENTRI BESAR DATO' HAJI HARUN IDRIS AND WELFARE SERVICES MINISTER HAJJAH AISHAH GHANI BY VIRTUE OF THEIR BEING HEAD OF UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA RESPECTIVELY.

THEIR POSTS WILL NOT BE AT STAKE YET AS ELECTION FOR BOTH THE SECTIONS WILL BE HELD NEXT YEAR.

THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD FOR THREE DAYS FROM JUNE 27. -- BERNAMA 1311/A1