

DR M SAYS YES TO UMNO'S No. 1 POST

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has accepted nomination for the Umno presidency, sources said today.

They said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir has also agreed to contest for the party deputy presidency. These papers were submitted much earlier.

"Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir submitted his papers for the presidency sometime last week," the sources said.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Jabar said today that three candidates had been nominated for the presidency. One has accepted, one has

withdrawn and one has yet to reply. He declined to name the candidate who has accepted.

Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn has already informed Umno headquarters that he would not be contesting while former Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Harun Idris has yet to reply.

Datuk Mustafa also said that out of the four nominees for the deputy presidency, only one has so far replied accepting nomination.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir has already said he has sent in his acceptance for the deputy presidency.

The others who have yet to reply are Finance

Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Education Minister Datuk Musa Hitam and Datuk Harun.

Datuk Mustafa said six candidates have so far agreed to contest for the three vice-presidencies while eight have yet to reply.

Among the six are Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Ruzhauqeen, Barisan Nasional secretary-general Encik Ghafar Baba and Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Rais Yatim.

Among those who have yet to reply are Home Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, Information Minister Datuk Mohamad Rah-

Datuk Mustafa said the names of all candidates who had accepted the nominations would only be announced after the Umno Supreme Council meeting on June 14.

He said all candidates, however, must reply whether they were accepting or rejecting nomination by June 9.

"Any nominee who has not submitted his acceptance by that date would be considered to have withdrawn from the race for whatever post he or she has been nominated."

Datuk Mustafa also said that 54 candidates had so far replied that they would be contesting the 20 Sup-

reme Council posts while 59 had yet to reply and 10 have withdrawn.

He added that for the permanent chairman's post, three candidates had so far agreed to contest while 10 had yet to reply to their nomination and three have withdrawn.

Out of the 21 candidates nominated for the deputy chairman's post, three have accepted nomination, three have rejected and 15 still to answer.

Datuk Mustafa said that out of the 114 Umno divisions in the country, 111 had sent in their nominations when the nominations closed yesterday.