

Dr M and Ghafar set to be returned unopposed

Anwar leads in Umno V-P race

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Encik Ghafar Baba are almost certain of being returned unopposed as Umno president and deputy president respectively.

When nominations closed today, Dr Mahathir and Encik Ghafar received 128 nominations each. Under the Umno constitution, the incumbent president and deputy president receive 10 bonus votes for each nomination they get.

This means that they received bonus votes of 1,280 each. About 1,400 Umno delegates will vote at the party polls on Nov 30.

Of the 133 Umno divisions, only two have yet to hold their meetings and make their nominations while the third is under suspension.

The Jerai division in Kedah and Kuala Pilah in Negri Sembilan had been given extensions to enable them to hold their meetings after today's deadline. The suspended division is Pasir Mas.

The official announcement of the nominations is expected to be made tomorrow.

Kubang Pasu and Jasin are the only divisions that did not nominate candidates for all party posts. Kubang Pasu is chaired by Dr Mahathir and Jasin by Encik Ghafar.

With the contests for the posts of president and deputy president not likely to take place, the focus is on the race for the three elected vice-president's posts.

Incumbent vice-president

and Education Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim leads the field with 90 nominations followed by supreme council member and Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid (39) and Johor Umno chief and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (36).

Terengganu Umno chief and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, who is the most senior vice-president is fourth with 31 nominations.

Also nominated are Perak liaison chief and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib (24), the third incumbent Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (20), Pahang liaison chief and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob (12), Selangor liaison chief and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib (7), Malacca liaison head and Chief Minister Tan

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Candidates and number of nominations received for three posts of vice-president

DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM	90
DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID	39
TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN	36
TAN SRI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD	31
TAN SRI RAMLI NGAH TALIB	24
DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI	20
TAN SRI KHALIL YAAKOB	12
TAN SRI MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD TAIB	7
TAN SRI ABDUL RAHIM THAMBY CHIK	7
DATUK MOHAMED ISA ABDUL SAMAD	5
DATUK SERI QSMAN AROFF	3
DATUK ABU HASSAN OMAR	2
DATUK MUSA HITAM	2

● Incumbents given in bold

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Sri Rahim Tamby Chik (7), Negri Sembilan liaison chief and Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad (5) and Kedah liaison chief and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Osman Aroff (3).

Altogether 12 candidates were nominated for the contest but Selangor deputy liaison chief and Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar withdrew on Friday after getting two nominations.

Special envoy to the United Nations Datuk Musa Hitam, who was nominated by the Segamat and Johor Baru divisions, is not expected to contest. He announced on Oct 9 his retirement from active politics.

Tan Sri Ramli will decide tomorrow if he is going to contest the vice-president's post.

Fourteen Umno divisions — Rantau Panjang, Batu, Seputeh, Sungai Besi, Titiwangsa, Lembah Pantai, Kepong, Bukit Bintang, Labuan, Kubang Pasu, Jasin, Jerlun/Langkawi, Pekan and Kota Baru — abstained from naming candidates for the vice-president's posts.

Although 128 divisions held their meetings, most of the nominations for the supreme council were not available.

In the contest for the 25 supreme council posts, 66 candidates were nominated. Based on the available nominations, Datuk Seri Osman is the most popular choice with support from 42 divisions.

Forty-one divisions nominated Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Justice Minister Syed Hamid Syed Jaafar Albar.

Trailing them is Tan Sri Ramli, Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor and Datuk Mohamed Isa, each receiving 38.

Others who obtained more than 30 nominations are Penang Deputy Chief Minister Dr Ibrahim Saad, Perlis Menteri Besar Dr Hamid Pawanteh (36 nominations each), Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Deputy Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Mohamad Ghazali (36), and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Deputy Minister Datuk Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (30 each).