

Nazri named Umno Youth deputy chief

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UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night announced the appointment of Mohamad Nazri Abdul Aziz as the new Youth deputy chief.

He also re-appointed the movement's chief Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Wanita chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and her deputy, Datuk Napsiah Omar.

Encik Nazri, a lawyer, is head of the movement's international bureau and has been an Umno Youth executive committee member for 12 years.

He replaces Haji Hashim Safin who has exceeded the age limit for the movement and who is now contesting a supreme council seat in tomorrow's party polls.

Dr Mahathir made the announcement after chairing a supreme council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre.

On the proposal that the Youth and Wanita chiefs be elected as suggested by some Umno divisions, Dr Mahathir said it would be decided at a later date.

"The new supreme council elected tomorrow will

decide on it," he said.

Encik Nazri, 36, later told newsmen he would still contest for a supreme council seat tomorrow.

"This is despite the fact that the Umno Youth deputy chief usually gets a seat in the supreme council. That was the case with Datuk Mokhtar Hashim and Datuk Seri Najib," he said.

Encik Nazri thanked Dr Mahathir for having confidence in him and Datuk Seri Najib for recommending him to the post.

"I dedicate my appointment to those who have struggled for the party all these years," he said.

He said his appointment was proof that the Umno leadership recognised those who were loyal to the party.

"I am confident that others who have been loyal to the party will also be recognised by the party leadership," he said.

Describing his appointment as a watershed in his political career, Encik Nazri promised to carry out his responsibilities for the good of the party.