

# Najib and Muhammad Muhyiddin tops

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib were today elected as new vice-presidents of Umno at the party's general assembly here.

Muhyiddin, the Johor Menteri Besar, polled 1,413 votes; Najib, the Defence Minister, 1,202 votes and Muhammad, the Selangor Menteri Besar, 1,189 votes.

They decisively edged out incumbents Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid who polled 927 and 525 votes respectively.

Earlier, permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah declared Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as party president for 1993-96 and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as deputy president. Both were returned unopposed.

The results for the vice-president posts and supreme council seats were announced by Sulaiman at 6.20pm to a packed Dewan Merdeka. Thousands of members and observers followed proceedings on the closed-circuit televisions located at various points in the Putra World Trade Centre.

Commenting on the results, Dr Mahathir said he was happy with the outcome of the election, adding

that the delegates had made a wise choice.

Asked if the outcome reflected team voting, Dr Mahathir said it did not as those who won did not get as many votes compared to their nominations while those who lost were not left far behind.

Replying to another question, he said even candidates who did not campaign or use money extensively received a favourable number of votes.

The Prime Minister, who was in a cheerful mood after the results were announced, said the election and its results would not split the party, adding that what happened in 1987 was a lot worse.

He was confident that those who were elected could work together to make the party more united.

He did not see the outcome of the voting as indicating the delegates' defiance of his advice for no-team voting, stressing that he did not consider the outcome as reflecting such a tendency.

To a question whether the youthfulness of the new line-up would pose a problem to him in the party, he replied light-heartedly: "They're not young... Tun Razak was younger when he became deputy president. I was once young."

The indications that delegates did not vote on "team" basis were most obvious

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also elected decisively  
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when many Menteris Besar, who are the lynchpins of their State Umno, did not make it to the top of the supreme council list.

Except Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib who was in second place behind Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor, the rest appeared lower down the list.

Observers say the Menteris Besar did not do too well in the race for the supreme council seats partly because three of them had already been voted in as vice-presidents.

Apart from Muhyiddin and Muhammad, Malacca Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik is also a vice-president by virtue of his stewardship of Umno Youth. He won the post yesterday.

A good mix of Ministers, Menteris Besar and Deputy Ministers were elected to fill the supreme council seats.

The supreme council members and the number of votes they obtained:

Datuk Dr Yusof Nor 1,371, Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib 1,324, Datuk Syed Hamid Albar 1,318, Datuk Dr Hamid Othman 1,318, Abdul Ghani Othman 1,314, Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad 1,280, Senator Mustapa Mohamed 1,280, Datuk Abu Hassan Omar 1,199, Senator Datuk Annuar Musa 1,185, Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman 1,180, Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali 1,175, Datuk Raja Ariffin Sulaiman 1,162, Tan Sri Mohamad Khalil Yaakob 1,161, Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh 1,139, Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir 1,102, Dr Ibrahim Saad 1,087, Tan Sri Osman Aroff 1,087, Datuk Khalid Yunus 1,068, Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai 959, Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik 932, Tengku Datuk Adnan Mansor 928, Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub 918, Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakar 911, Datuk Napsiah Omar 886,

Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail 840.

Party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat told reporters that the finishing order for the remaining contestants would only be made available to the Press tomorrow.

Asked to comment on his victory, Muhyiddin, who failed in a similar attempt in 1990, said he was surprised by the high number of votes he received. He considered the victory as both an honour and responsibility.

He pledged his full support for and co-operation with the leadership of Dr Mahathir.

He pledged to take Umno and the country to greater heights. He also thanked delegates for supporting Najib and Muhammad.

Najib, commenting on his success, said the new vice-presidents would meet soon to prepare themselves to answer whatever challenges that might arise.

Najib said: "Being a first time contender for the post, and having managed to secure the second highest number of votes, has given me the confidence to extend my services to the party.

"I will give my best to the party to prove that the delegates' trust in me is not misplaced."

He said he wanted to play a role that was supportive of the president and the deputy president.

The third winner, Muhammad, said he would work hard to help strengthen the party leadership and he also pledged to help reduce politicking in the party.

Muhammad, who won in his first attempt, said he would help the party president and his deputy to achieve party and national goals.

"We will not betray the trust given to us by the delegates and will try not to let them down," he said.