

Dr M returned unopposed

ALOR STAR, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was returned unopposed as Kubang Pasu Umno divisional chief for another three-year term.

Pro-tem divisional secretary Saad Hashim said all 122 branches in the division had nominated Dr Mahathir for the post.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff and Senator Saad Man have also been returned unopposed by the branches in Kubang Pasu as the deputy and vice head respectively.

But a contest is expected for the division's youth chief post after the expiry of Johari Baharom's term as the divisional youth chief because of the age limit.

Pro-tem divisional treasurer Ahmad Zaini Che Mat, divisional pro-tem committee member Kamarulzaman

Abdul Rahman and pro-tem vice youth chief Radzi Ayob are among those nominated to contest for the top youth post.

Dr Mahathir will open his divisional delegates' meeting at Dewan Jitra on Sept 14.

The Baling Umno division will be the first division in Kedah to hold the delegates' meeting. The meeting will be held at Dewan Tun Razak in Baling tomorrow and Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak is scheduled to open the meeting.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Raja Datuk Ariffin Raja Sulaiman and State Legislative Assembly Speaker Zainol Mat Isa are expected to be returned unopposed as the divisional chief and deputy chief respectively.

An exciting contest is expected for the Langkawi division's top post.

Pro-tem divisional chief Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid is expected to be challenged by Agriculture Ministry's Parliamentary Secretary and pro-tem divisional deputy chief Datuk Abu Bakar Taib for the top post.

Abu Bakar is ahead in terms of nominations having been nominated by 33 branches while Sanusi was nominated by 18 branches. The remaining six branches decided to abstain.

In the Merbok division, the biggest questionmark is if Economic Adviser to the Government Tun Daim Zainuddin will change his mind and return to lead the division.

Daim resigned on Aug 15 saying that he was paving the way for new faces to head the Merbok division

but leaders at the division and branch levels were persuading the Merbok MP to continue leading the division.

The three contenders for the top post — acting divisional pro-tem chief Badri Yunus, Sungai Badak branch member Datuk Zainol Abidin Johari and Guar Stesyen branch member Jamaluddin Che Tam — are expected to withdraw from the contest to pave the way for Daim's return.

But this will only be known on Sept 10, the deadline for all contestants to confirm that they are contesting the posts for which they have been nominated.

Elsewhere, contests are expected for the divisional chief post in the Alor Star, Kuala Kedah and Sungai Petani divisions.

Pro-tem Alor Star divisional chief Datuk Azizan

as divisional chief

Taib will be challenged by his pro-tem deputy, Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah, while in Kuala Kedah, pro-tem chief Datuk Zakaria Said is expected to be challenged by former divisional chief Datuk Abu Bakar Rautin Ibrahim.

Kedah Youth leader and Sungai Petani MP Che Ibrahim Mustapha is expected to take on pro-tem divisional secretary Jamaluddin Yusof for the top post.

Meanwhile, *Bernama* reports from Kuala Lumpur that Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar have been returned unopposed as heads of the Kepala Batas and Kuala Selangor Umno divisions respectively.

Abdullah received nominations from all the divi-

sion's 60 branches which have held their annual general meetings. Two new branches in Kepala Batas division are not yet eligible to hold their annual general meetings.

A spokesman for the Kepala Batas Umno division said today Abdullah had held the post of division head since taking over from his father, the late Datuk Ahmad Badawi Abdullah Fahim, in 1978.

Ahmad Badawi was the head of the division, then, known as the Seberang Perai Utara Umno division, since its formation until his death in 1977.

He had served as the Umno Youth deputy chief for 18 years and was a Penang State Executive Councillor at the time of his death.

The Kepala Batas Umno divisional conference will

be held at Dewan Sekolah Datuk Haji Ahmad Badawi, Butterworth, on Sept 17.

Abu Hassan, the Kuala Selangor Umno divisional head since 1980, was returned unopposed when all 55 branches in the division nominated him for the post.

The branches have conducted their annual general meeting by Aug 27.

According to a statement from the Kuala Selangor Umno division, Datuk Abdul Khalid Ibrahim will contest against Datuk Miskon Suteru for the deputy head's post at its divisional conference on Sept 16.

The contest for the vice-head's post will see a tussle among Ahmad Kamaruddin Abdullah, Dr Kartini Kamsono Kibat and Yusof Yunus.