

10 OCT 1996

Umno-Voting

VOTING FOR UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL POSTS HAS BEGUN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Voting for posts in the Umno Supreme Council began at 12.15pm today after the party's General Assembly was adjourned as soon as party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad finished reading his presidential speech.

Dr Mahathir cast the first ballot at Dewan Merdeka in the Putra World Trade Centre, followed by his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Next came the other 42 members of the Supreme Council and 30 delegates each from the Youth and Wanita wings.

A total of 1,871 party leaders and delegates are eligible to vote.

The delegates of Parit Buntar headed the list of 1,767 delegates representing 164 divisions in casting their ballots.

Videos on how to vote were shown to the delegates before the voting process began. All the ballot boxes were also opened to show the delegates that they were empty before being locked.

Permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah reminded the voters to mark their ballots by using only the pens provided and they should leave the hall after casting their vote.

The voting process is expected to take two hours.

About 300 people are helping to conduct the balloting and counting.

The results are expected to be announced late in the afternoon.

Seven candidates are contesting for the three posts of vice president, 55 for the 25 Supreme Council seats, two for the permanent chairman post and three for the deputy permanent chairman post.

The president and deputy president have been returned unopposed.

Attention in the party elections is focused at the vice presidential race which involves the three incumbents -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

They are challenged by Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and Yob Tajuddin Kulub Ismail.

-- BERNAMA

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