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PBB-Result

ABANG JOHARI WINS IN KEENLY CONTESTED PBB ELECTION

KUCHING, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Minister for Industrial Development Datuk Abang Johari Tun Openg was today elected as a new deputy president of Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) in a keen contest at the party's triennial delegates conference.

He polled 373 votes against 268 by state Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Adenan Satem to take over the deputy presidency reserved for those from the former Parti Bumiputera which had merged with the Dayak-based Parti Pesaka to form PBB.

The incumbent, Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha, who is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, could attract only 27 votes. He had held the seat since 1986 when he defeating federal Agriculture Minister Datuk Dr Sulaiman Daud.

The other deputy president's post, reserved for Pesaka candidates, was won uncontested by Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu.

The contest for the Bumiputera deputy presidency attracted the interest of many political observers in view of the intriguing dramas in the run-up to the election.

Although the election was very much a family affair, the environment in the meeting hall of the Santubong Resort, about 35 km from here, was tense with the movements of party delegates and observers coming under tight security.

The conference was declared open yesterday by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The contest also attracted the limelight as observers felt that the outcome had bearing on the future leadership of the party.

Adenan, who received 32 nominations, was said to have the backing of Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud who himself was returned unopposed as the party president by all the 62 PBB divisions.

Abang Johari, who received 14 nominations, was reported to have said he had a daunting task as was not only facing his "good friend" but also "invincible hands" that were financially strong.

Abdul Taib denied that he was backing Adenan saying that he was the father-figure in the contest of the two party stalwarts who were among the three persons he was grooming to take over the helm from him.

The third person mentioned by Abdul Taib is state assemblyman and corporate figure Datuk Effendi Norwawi, who won one of the four Bumiputera vice-president's posts with 393 votes

The other three winners are Dr Sulaiman who polled 602 votes, Datuk Leo Micheal Toyad (516 votes) and Awang Tengah Ali Hassan with (469 votes).

The three Pesaka vice-president's posts had been won uncontested by state Housing Minister Datuk Celestine Ujang, Micheal Manyin and Datuk Stephen Wan Ulok.

For the 11 Bumiputera seats in the PBB Supreme Council, the winners are Datuk Mohd Ali Mahmud, Daud Abd Rahman, Mohd Naroden Majais, Talip Zulipilip, Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, Dr Wahbi Junaidi, Senator Abdillah Abdul Rahim, Hamden Ahmad, Julaihi Narawi, Mohd Ghazali Kipli and Aidan Wing.

The nine Pesaka seats in the council had been won unopposed by Alexander Nanta Linggi, Douglas Unggah Embah, Roland Sagah, John Nyigor, Dr Rundi anak Utom, Frederick Bayoi, Datuk Douglas Sullang anak Ganda, Benedict Bujang Tembak and Micheal Lisa Kaya.

Meanwhile, Abang Johari in his victory speech said he regarded the contest as a "family affair" and Adenan as his "big brother."

He said winning the deputy president's post meant shouldering the heavy responsibility of uplifting the economic standards of Bumiputeras in Sarawak.

Adenan, in his speech, called on the delegates to strengthen unity for the sake of the party and the state.

Abdul Taib said the contest had shown the maturity of both delegates and the candidates who did not indulge in dirty politics.

"I'm also glad money politics did not influence the campaign," he told reporters.

-- BERNAMA

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