

30 MAR 1998

Umno-Kedah

TWO DIVISION LEADERS IN KEDAH FAIL TO DEFEND SEATS

ALOR SETAR, March 30 (Bernama) -- Only two Umno division leaders in Kedah failed to defend their posts when all the 15 divisions in the state completed their delegates' meetings yesterday.

They were state executive councillor Datuk Paduka Abdul Rahman Ibrahim, defeated at Pokok Sena and Tanjung Dawai state assemblyman Badri Yunus of Merbok division.

Abdul Rahman, who polled 201 votes, was defeated by his division's Umno Youth chief Ahmad Lebai Sudin who polled 305 votes.

On the eve of the delegates' meeting, Ahmad resigned as a state executive councillor following Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid's ruling that councillors wishing to contest divisional chief posts must resign if they were not holding such posts.

Badri failed to defend his post as the Merbok division chief when he lost to Arzmi Hamid, the former youth leader there.

Mokhzani Mahathir, the Prime Minister's son, was returned unopposed as the divisional Umno youth chief when Arzmi struck a compromise for the post.

Four other divisions - Jerlun, Kuala Kedah, Yan and Sungai Petani -- saw contests for the top divisional posts, however the incumbents who are Members of Parliament easily defended their positions.

They were Jerlun MP Datuk Hanafi Ramli in Jerlun, Datuk Zakaria Said (Kuala Kedah), Datuk Badarudin Amiruldin (Yan) and Ibrahim Mustafa (Sungai Petani).

Those returned unopposed to lead their divisions were Prime Minister Datuk Dr Mahathir Mohamad (Kubang Pasu), Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman (Sik), Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Affifuddin Omar (Padang Terap) and Human Resources Deputy Minister Datuk Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (Kulim/Bandar Baharu).-- BERNAMA

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