

# Aziz, Zein Isma eye deputy Youth chief post 17

By HIZREEN KAMAL

**PETALING JAYA, Mon:** Two senior Umno Youth executive council members are expected to fight for the wing's vice-head post at its May 10 election.

Speculation is rife that Datuk Abdul Aziz Shcikh Fadzir and Zein Isma Ismail will face each other. **SUN 25 7:3000**

A party source said Abdul Aziz, 37, who is also the movement's management and disciplinary committee chairman, is considered the "most qualified" for the post "because he secured the highest votes for a seat in the executive council in the 1996 elections".

Abdul Aziz has yet to announce his intention to contest and it is believed he will make his statement soon.

Zein, 38, the movement's undergraduate and training committee chairman,

is expected to announce his intention at his Hari Raya open house in Janda Baik on Saturday.

A party source said while Aziz "is known for his capabilities in organising events", no one should underestimate Zein "who knows his way around".

The post of vice-head has been left vacant since Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein took over as acting Youth chief following the resignation of Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Hishammuddin is tight-lipped about who he favours, but has called on all candidates to abide by the party guidelines when campaigning if they want his support.

"There is no such thing as favouring anyone. Both are my men. The line which will differentiate them is whether they follow the guidelines for campaign-

ing or otherwise," he said recently.

A party source said Zein regards Umno as "the last big empire of the Malays" and hopes to elevate the status of the party in the eyes of the public.

A Youth leader argues that Zein does not have "the track record". During the general election when Umno Youth established an election secretariat, "he was nowhere in sight".

Aziz is said to have this track record. "He has done a lot for the movement", like organising last year's Barisan Nasional Youth convention in Sabah, the Putra Merdeka gathering in Penang and the Youth and Wanita BN meeting with BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad before the general election."

The Youth assembly this year will see an increase in the number of delegates from 525 to 690.