

19 MAR 2000

Umno-round-up (4pm)

20 UMNO DIVISIONS PICK MAHATHIR AND ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, March 19 (Bernama) -- Of the 26 Umno divisions due to hold their delegates conferences today, 20 have met and nominated Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the post of president and deputy president respectively at the party elections in May.

To-date, both leaders have received 71 nominations each.

The 20 divisions are Sungai Siput, Johor Baharu, Nibong Tebal, Parit Sulong, Sri Gading, Ipoh Timur, Lumut, Arau, Ipoh Barat, Sandakan, Bayan Baru, Jasin, Kuala Langat, Klang, Gelang Patah, Gopeng, Taiping, Labuan, Sabak Bernam and Jempol.

In the Sungai Siput delegates conference, an attempt was made to nominate Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah for the deputy president's post. But the majority of the delegates turned down the nomination proposed by their divisional head Datuk Mohamad Padil Harun and voted for Abdullah instead.

With this, Tengku Razaleigh remains with one nomination each for the top two posts.

For the vice-presidential election, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak received nominations from 19 divisions, bringing his tally to 68, followed by Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman with 44 nominations.

Two other aspirant candidates, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar made it into the race today when they collected over 17 nominations as required.

Osu has 21 nominations (plus six today) while Abu Hassan, 24 (plus eight).

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim so far has received 9 nominations, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (7), Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Samad (15), incumbent Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib (11), Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar (12), Tengku Razaleigh (2) and Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali (2).

--BERNAMA

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