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### 83 candidates to contest positions in Umno election

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Eighty-three candidates will be contesting for posts in the Umno party election on May 11.

This is slightly higher than the 69 in 1996.

Party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today that eight candidates would contest the post of deputy permanent chairman, nine for the three vice-president slots and 63 for the 25 supreme council seats.

The posts of president, deputy president and permanent chairman have already been won unopposed by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah, respectively.

All nine candidates nominated for the vice-president seats have submitted their acceptance forms.

They are, incumbents Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd Taib, Johor Umno chief Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Selangor chief Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar and Sabah chief Datuk Seri Osu Sukam. The others are Kota Tinggi division head Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Pagoh division head Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Negri Sembilan Umno chief Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad and Jelebu division adviser Datuk Dr Rais Yatim.

For deputy permanent chairman, 12 were nominated but only eight are contesting. Those who did not accept are Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman, Datuk Mohamad Aziz, Datuk Azman Attar and Datuk Rizuan Abdul Hamid.

For the supreme council seats, only 63 of the 75 candidates nominated have decided to contest. Those not contesting despite being eligible are Kedah Umno chief Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Umno executive secretary Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Terengganu deputy head Datuk Idris Jusoh, incumbent Datuk Zainal Abidin Kadir, deputy Primary Industries minister Datuk Anifah Aman, Labuan MP Datuk Suhaili Abdul Rahman, Osu, Abu Hassan, Syed Hamid, Isa, Muhyiddin and Rais.

Meanwhile, Khalil said the supreme council had decided to suspend the Bandar Tun Razak delegates division meeting held on April 14. The division will also not be allowed to send delegates to the general assembly.