

14 MAR 2000

Umno-meetings

ANOTHER 29 UMNO DIVISIONS MEET THIS WEEK

KUALA LUMPUR, March 14 (Bernama) -- Another 29 Umno divisions nationwide will hold their respective delegates meetings this weekend.

Many of the meetings will be held on Sunday, involving nine divisions in Selangor, six in Perak, four in Johor, three in Sabah, two each in Federal Territory and Penang and one each in Melaka, Negeri Sembilan and Pahang.

The divisions in Selangor are Kuala Langat, Kapar, Hulu Selangor, Sabak Bernam, Serdang, PJ Selatan, PJ Utara, Klang and Hulu Langat.

In Perak, the divisions are Sungai Siput, Ipoh Barat, Ipoh Timur, Larut, Gopeng and Taiping while in Johor, Johor Baharu, Gelang Patah, Parit Sulong and Seri Gading.

In Sabah, the divisions are Tanjung Aru (Saturday), Tenom and Silam while in Federal Territory, Segambut and Labuan. In Penang, the two divisions are Nibong Tebal and Bayan Baru while in Melaka, Jasin, in Pahang, Rompin and Negeri Sembilan, Jempol.

So far, 48 out of the 165 Umno divisions have held their respective meetings.

Of the number, 47 divisions nominated Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for Umno president and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for deputy president at the party elections in May.

Only Tanah Merah division in Kelantan nominated Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who is Kelantan Umno chief, for both posts of president and deputy president.

Dr Mahathir only needs three more nominations to qualify to contest for the presidency while Abdullah has already surpassed the minimum 33 nominations required for the deputy president's post.

For the vice-president's posts, 11 names were nominated so far.

An incumbent, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is the favourite with nominations from 45 divisions. Only three divisions which have met so far did not nominate him, namely Tawau, Ampang and Kota Belud.

The second highest nominations went to Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman with 29, followed by Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar (16), Datuk Seri Osu Sukam (12), Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar (11), Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Samad (10), incumbent Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib (8), Datuk Rais Yatim (5), Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (3), Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (2) and Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali (2).

Najib and Abdul Ghani have qualified for the vice-presidential race with nominations surpassing the required 17.

Abdul Ghani, Abu Hassan and Osu have received nominations from all divisions which have so far held their meetings in Johor, Selangor and Sabah respectively.

But for Mohamed Isa, of the two divisions which have already met in Negeri Sembilan, only one nominated him (Rasah) while the Seremban division nominated Rais together with Najib and Abdul Ghani.

For the Wanita Umno chief, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz is leading with 44 nominations compared to 30 received by incumbent Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman.

Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil on the other hand obtained also 44 nominations for the vice-head's post, well ahead of incumbent Datuk Napsiah Omar (8) and another possible contender Ainon Khariyah Mohd Abas (22).

For the Umno Youth head, Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein as expected is

ahead with 74 nominations as against one nomination from aspirant candidate, Raja Munir Raja Mustapha.

For the vice-head post, those nominated are Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir (57), Zein Isma Ismail (14), Mustapha Khalid (3) and Zahidi Zainul Abidin (1).

--BERNAMA

ara mai abg