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Umno-Nomination (Roundup)

FIFTEEN DIVISIONS NOMINATE MAHATHIR AND ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, March 5 (Bernama) -- All 15 Umno divisions which held their delegates meeting today nominated Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for party president and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for deputy president.

The divisions are Ledang, Senai, Tenggara, Sungai Benut dan Segamat (in Johor), Papar, Penampang, Sipatang dan Bandau (Sabah), Batu Gajah and Gerik (Perak), Jelutong and Tasik Gelugor (Penang), Cheras (Federal Territory) and Batu Berendam (Melaka).

The divisions thus appear to support the Umno Supreme Council stand that there be no contest for the top two posts with Dr Mahathir remaining as president and Abdullah taking over as deputy president.

The 15 divisions all chose Datuk Seri Najib Razak for one of the three vice-president's posts.

They others proposed for the vice-presidency include menteri besar and cabinet ministers.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman received 12 nominations and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam got six, while Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Isa Samad and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Abdul Hamid Albar garnered three each.

Two divisions proposed Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim for the post while the Gerik division named Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah as one of its nominees.

Of the 15 divisions, one (Cheras) nominated three cabinet ministers -- Najib, Syed Hamid and Dr Rais -- for the three vice-president's posts.

Three divisions (Jelutong, Penampang and Sungai Benut) went for a combination of two ministers and a menteri besar or chief minister.

The remaining divisions chose at least one cabinet minister and two menteri besar or a chief minister.

The Gerik division was the only one to nominate someone without a government position -- Razaleigh -- for one of the three vice-presidents, with the other two nominees being Najib and Abdul Ghani.

All the five divisions from Johor included Abdul Ghani as one of their vice-president nominees while the four from Sabah included Osu.

The 15 divisions are the first to make nominations for the May party elections after the Tawau division made its selection on Thursday.

The Tawau division had nominated Dr Mahathir and Abdullah for the top two posts, and only two persons -- Najib and Osu -- for the vice-president's posts.

Meanwhile, the 15 divisions today also made nominations for the 25 elected posts in the Umno Supreme Council.

Most of the nominees comprise menteri besar, chief ministers, cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and state leaders.

Among those with a higher number of nominations (based on the nomination list of all 15 divisions except that of Bandau which could not be obtained) are Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil who received 11 nominations.

Another woman leader, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, managed to attract only one nomination --

from the Penampang division.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Mohamed Ali Rustam was nominated by all 14 divisions whose lists are available.

Others nominated for a supreme council seat include former Selangor menteri besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhamad Taib, former Melaka chief minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik and former cabinet minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob.

Meanwhile, Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz continued to be ahead in the nominations for the Wanita Umno chief post.

Five of the six divisions that had their meetings today nominated her. The divisions are Rasah, Gerik, Tapah, Sik and Batu Berendam.

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