

11 MAR 2000

Umno-Nominations

JELI, KUALA KRAI NAME DR M, PAK LAH FOR TOP POSTS

JELI, March 11 (Bernama) -- The Jeli and Kuala Krai Umno divisions today nominated Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the Umno presidency and the deputy president's post.

The Jeli division also proposed Kelantan Umno liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to vie for one of the three vice-president's posts.

This brings to two the nominations he received for the slot. Grik Umno headed by Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali was the first to nominate him for the post.

Jeli division's two other nominees for vice-presidency are incumbent Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

The candidates' names were announced by division chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed to the thunderous applause by the 317 delegates attending the divisional meeting at the Bukit Nangka Umno complex here.

The nominations were supported by deputy division chief Zahari Kechik.

In KUALA KRAI, the nominations of Dr Mahathir and Abdullah by deputy division chief Salleh Che Harun were backed by 303 delegates by show of hands.

Before the nominations were passed, a representative from the Guchil Umno branch proposed Tengku Razaleigh's name for the deputy presidency.

The proposal was rejected with the majority of the delegates opting for Dr Mahathir and Abdullah for the two top posts.

Yesterday, the Tanah Merah division named Tengku Razaleigh for the two posts, the only division to do so thus far.

The Kuala Krai division's choice for vice-presidents are Najib, Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar.

In KOTA BAHARU, the Peringat division headed by former Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa nominated Dr Mahathir and Abdullah for the Number One and Two posts, respectively.

It also named Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, incumbents Najib and former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib for vice-presidency.

The nominations made by the division's deputy chief Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir and seconded by the vice-chairman Ismail Latif received majority support from the 200 delegates.

Before the nominations were put to a vote by show of hands, a tense moment prevailed when a delegate questioned the meeting's chairman for closing the nominations quickly.

The meeting, however, proceeded smoothly after Annuar explained the procedures to the delegate.

The three divisions also named 25 candidates each for the supreme council, Umno's highest decision-making body.

Speaking to reporters later, Annuar, who is also Kelantan Umno deputy chief, said his division did not nominate Tengku Razaleigh for any posts as the former Finance Minister had not expressed his desire to contest for party positions.

Annuar also said he rejected his nomination to contest for the Umno Youth chief's post to avoid a split in the party.

He said democracy was not an excuse to justify contests which could lead to disunity in Umno as what happened in the past.

Till todate, four of the 14 divisions in Kelantan had held their meetings.

-- BERNAMA
SM TS