

12 MAR 2000

Umno-Candidacy

MAHATHIR, ABDULLAH RECEIVE 46 NOMINATIONS EACH SO FAR

KUALA LUMPUR, March 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi have so far secured 46 nominations each for the Umno president and deputy president posts.

Today, both leaders received another 25 nominations each as of 8pm.

Abdullah has surpassed the 33 nominations needed to qualify to contest for the number two post, while Dr Mahathir is close to clinching the 50 nominations he requires to be eligible to defend the presidency.

Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who received one nomination each for the top two posts on Friday, did not receive any new nominations for either posts for the second day running.

For the three vice-president posts, incumbent Datuk Seri Najib Razak continues to lead other contenders after obtaining another 23 nominations so far today to bring his tally to 44.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, with 29 nominations so far, has also qualified to contest for the vice-presidency.

A minimum of 17 nominations are needed to be eligible to contest for the vice-presidency.

For the Umno Youth chief's post, Datuk Hishamuddin Hussein added garnered another 10 nominations today to bring his tally to 70, well above the 33 required to qualify to contest.

Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir has the most nominations for the vice-chief's post with 55 followed by Zein Isma Ismail (12) and Mustapha Khalid (3).

In the race for Wanita Umno chief's post, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz is ahead of incumbent Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman with 38 nominations against 26.

Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil has 38 nominations for the vice-chief's post followed by Aionn Khariyah (18) and incumbent Datuk Napsiah Omar (7).

-- BERNAMA

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