

19 MAR 2000

Umno-Round-up

MAHATHIR AND ABDULLAH CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SUPPORT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today secured another 27 nominations each for the top two posts in Umno, while two more aspirants qualified to contest for the vice-presidency.

All 27 divisions which held their delegates conference today nominated Dr Mahathir to contest for the president's post and Abdullah for the deputy president's post in the May 11 party elections.

Today, the prime minister and his deputy have received 78 nominations each.

The 27 divisions that met today are Sungai Siput, Johor Baharu, Nibong Tebal, Parit Sulong, Sri Gading, Ipoh Timur, Lumut, Arau, Ipoh Barat, Sandakan, Bayan Baru, Jasin, Kuala Langat, Klang, Gelang Patah, Gopeng, Taiping, Labuan, Sabak Bernam, Jempol, Serdang, Kuantan, Segambut, PJ Utara, Kapar, Hulu Langat and Hulu Selangor.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam surpassed the minimum requirement of nominations from 17 divisions (10 percent of the total 165 divisions) to contest for the vice-president's post.

Abu Hassan received 15 nominations today -- mostly from Selangor -- to raise his total to 31, while Osu's tally increased to 22 after seven more divisions selected him.

Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad today received four more nominations for a total of 16 -- just one short to make the cut.

So far 79 Umno divisions have held their respective delegates conference.

Meanwhile, the attempt to nominate Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah for the party deputy presidency and vice-presidency in three Umno divisions -- Segambut, Sungei Siput and Kuantan -- proved futile.

In Segambut, Tengku Razaleigh's name was proposed by two delegates soon after division chief Datuk Abu Kassim Tadin tendered a list of nominees for the posts of permanent chairman and deputy permanent chairman, president, deputy president, vice-president and 25 Supreme Council members.

Although Abu Kassim had earlier explained at length that his list had been endorsed at the division's special meeting, it did not prevent delegates from making their own proposals.

As soon as his list was seconded, a delegate, Mohamed Daris from the Taman SPPK branch, stood up to propose three names for the vice-presidency -- incumbent Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Samad and Tengku Razaleigh.

After his proposal was seconded, another delegate, Sabri Manaf from the Kebun Bunga branch, stood up to make his proposal for all the posts.

He named Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the presidency and Tengku Razaleigh for deputy president.

After getting the unanimous agreement of the 169 delegates, the proposals were divided into three packages for voting, with Abu Kassim's list known as package A and the others, B and C.

When package A was put to a vote, 100 delegates stood up as a sign of agreement. Since this was more than half the number present, the delegates agreed to accept Abu Kassim's list without voting on the other two.

Abu Kassim's list nominated Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad

Badawi for president and deputy president respectively.

Those nominated as vice-presidents are incumbent Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar and Datuk Dr Rais Yatim.

Tengku Razaleigh was also unsuccessful in securing nomination for the deputy and vice-president at the Kuantan division's meeting.

The Kelantan prince received only 65 votes against 199 by Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in a secret ballot for the division's deputy president nominee.

Tengku Razaleigh was proposed by division treasurer Shaharom Zainuddin and Abdullah by committee member Fauzun Abdul Samad.

The meeting, opened by division chief Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman, was attended by 266 delegates.

Seri Kemunting Umno branch chief Mohamad bin Yahaya proposed Razaleigh for one of the three vice-president posts, but the prince lost to Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Datuk Abu Hassan Omar and Datuk Seri Osu Sukam in the voting.

Sungai Siput division chief Datuk Mohamad Padil Harun's proposal to nominate Tengku Razaleigh for the deputy presidency also failed when the majority of delegates opted for Abdullah.

Tengku Razaleigh thus remains with just one nomination each for the presidency and deputy presidency.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, the front-running vice-presidential candidate, has increased his nomination tally to 75.

He secured from all the divisions that met today except for the Jempol division.

Among the other vice-presidential candidates, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman has raised his tally to 45, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar (13), former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib (12), Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim (10), Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (8), Tengku Razaleigh (2) and Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali (2).

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