

06/03/2000

Move to nominate Razaleigh fails

SIMPANG RENGAM, Sun. - Attempts by some Umno delegates at the Sungai Benut division meeting today to nominate Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah for the posts of party president and deputy president failed due to lack of support.

A delegate from the Permatang Palas branch proposed that Tengku Razaleigh be nominated for the highest position and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the post of deputy president.

Another delegate from the Air Baloi Branch proposed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the presidency and Tengku Razaleigh for the deputy presidency.

Following a vote, done through a show of hands, six delegates wanted Tengku Razaleigh nominated for the post of party president and seven for the number two position.

The delegates voted overwhelmingly to nominate Dr Mahathir for the presidency and Abdullah for the deputy presidency.

There were 521 delegates from 120 branches in the division attending the delegates' conference.

Sungai Benut Umno division head Abdul Hamid Abdul Rahman told reporters later that the division's leadership was adopting an open policy to enable the delegates to exercise their democratic rights.

Tengku Razaleigh also missed the chance to be nominated for vice-president after a branch leader in the Tasik Gelugor division in Butterworth failed to push his name for nomination today.

Kampung Paya branch head Mohamad Badaruddin Ibrahim had proposed that Tengku Razaleigh and former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib be nominated for the post, instead of Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar.

However, when put to a vote, his proposal received only 10 votes compared to 235 for the original list proposed by the division's deputy chief, Jasmin Mohamed.

Both Ghani and Abu Hassan were nominated along with incumbent Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for the vice-presidency.

Dr Mahathir and Abdullah were nominated for the number one and number two posts respectively.

In Rantau Panjang, Kelantan, Abdullah said the Menteris Besar of Perlis, Kedah and Perak were free to propose to the party divisions in their States to nominate Tengku Razaleigh for the vice-presidency.

"But it is the members in the respective divisions who will decide whether or not to accept the proposal," he told reporters after the opening of the Rantau Panjang Immigration Complex by the Sultan of Kelantan.

He said Umno members were wise enough to decide with party interest in mind.

Abdullah was commenting on a statement by Perlis Menteri Besar and State Umno chairman Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim that three State Umno chairmen and Menteris Besar had agreed to propose to their State divisions to nominate Tengku Razaleigh for the post of vice-president.