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Najib to make stand after division meets

UMNO vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak said he will only make his stand whether to defend his post or contest for the party's top posts after all the 165 party divisions have completed their meetings.

"Under the party's constitution, a member has to get certain number of nominations from the divisions to contest for the top party's posts.

"For instance, a party member would need 20 per cent nominations from the total party divisions nationwide to enable him to contest or defend his vice-presidential post.

"Let the divisions decide whether to nominate who to contest and in what position during the election," he told newsmen after attending the ministry's Hari Raya Aidil Fitri gathering in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Other leaders who are offering themselves to contest for similar post are Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Isa Samad, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

Bernama reports: Penang Umno yesterday agreed unanimously to nominate Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Umno president in the party election in May.

Deputy chairman of the state Umno liaison body Datuk Seri Shariff Omar said all Umno divisions as well as the state Umno Youth and Wanita movements also agreed to nominate Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the post of party deputy president.

Shariff said the decision was arrived at the meeting chaired by him yesterday.

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