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Napsiah short of two nominations to defend her post

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Incumbent Wanita Umno deputy head Datuk Napsiah Omar is struggling to defend her post in the party election next month as she is short of two nominations.

Napsiah only has 23 nominations while her rivals, Wanita Exco member Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and Perak Wanita Umno head Ainin Khairiyah Mohd Abas, have qualified to contest for the post.

Shahrizat has received 87 nominations and Ainin Khairiyah 48 nominations.

If Napsiah fails to obtain the two nominations after all the divisions have held their meetings, she will not be able to defend her post.

Shahrizat received another two nominations today from the Kuala Kangsar and Gombak divisions which also nominated former Wanita chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz for the movement's top post.

Rafidah now has 89 nominations while incumbent head Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman has 69.

The Kepong Umno division which met last night and the Sungai Petani division which had its meeting today, nominated Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the posts of party president and deputy president respectively. With this, Dr Mahathir has received 150 nominations while Abdullah, 149. Both won the posts uncontested.

So far 151 of the 165 divisions have held their meetings. Among the divisions scheduled to hold meetings tomorrow are Kuala Kangsar, Bukit Gantang, Shah Alam and Gombak.

The Kepong division also nominated incumbent Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Pagoh Umno division chief Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah for the three Umno vice-president posts.

The Sungai Petani division nominated Najib, incumbent Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib and Kota Tinggi division chief Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar for the vice-presidency.

Najib, Muhyiddin, Muhammad and Syed Hamid have qualified to contest the post along with Johor Umno chief Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Selangor chief Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar, Sabah chief Datuk Seri Osu Sukam, Negri Sembilan chief Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad and Jelebu division adviser Datuk Dr Rais Yatim.

However, Tengku Razaleigh only has 13 nominations and is short of four to qualify for the vice-presidency contest.

Acting Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Youth Exco member Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir received another three nominations today for the posts of Youth head and deputy head respectively. They were nominated by the Bukit Gantang and Kuala Kangsar divisions in Perak and Gombak in Selangor.

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