

12 MAR 2000

Umno-Nominations (round-up)

PAK LAH QUALIFIES FOR DEPUTY PRESIDENCY

KUALA LUMPUR, March 12 (Bernama) -- All 26 Umno divisions which met today nominated Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the party's top two posts, giving Abdullah his ticket to contest the deputy presidency.

This brings to 47 the number of nominations received by both the leaders for the May party elections.

Abdullah is now eligible to vie for the deputy president's post which requires a candidate to get at least 33 nominations.

Dr Mahathir needs only three more nominations to be eligible to defend the presidency.

He is not expected to have problems to qualify as there are more than 100 divisions yet to convene their delegates' meetings.

Kelantan Umno liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who was nominated for both president's and deputy president's posts by the Tanah Merah division, did not receive any new nominations for either post for the second day running.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who collected 24 nominations today, is leading the pack with 45 nominations to date for the vice-presidency.

Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman is second with 29 nominations when 15 more divisions proposed him for the post today.

Najib and Ghani have qualified to contest for the vice-president's posts as they have exceeded the 17 nominations required.

Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar is in third spot with 16 nominations, with 10 coming from today's meetings.

Other prospective candidates are Datuk Osu Sukam (12), Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar (11), Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad (10), Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib (eight), Datuk Dr Rais Yatim (five), Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (three), Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali (two) and Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (two).

For the Umno Youth chief's post, Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein remains the favourite with 75 nominations, adding 15 to his credit today.

Tanjong Umno Youth chief Raja Munir Shah Raja Mustapha is still with one nomination from his own division for the youth's Number One post.

Umno Youth exco member Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir is leading other aspirants for the youth vice-head post, garnering 59 nominations so far.

Fellow exco member Zein Isma Ismail has 13, Mustapha Khalid (three) and Zahidi Zainul Abidin (one).

For the Wanita Umno chief's post, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz is still ahead of the movement's incumbent head Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman with 43 nominations against 28.

A candidate must receive 33 nominations to be eligible to contest for the wanita chief's post.

Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, who has qualified to stand for the vice-head post, received 11 nominations, bringing her total to 42.

Ainon Khairiyah Mohamed Abas has picked up 22 nominations, three short of qualifying to run for the post.

Incumbent Wanita vice-head Datuk Napsiah Omar has obtained seven nominations.

-- BERNAMA

MAM/AKT TS

