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Poser over validity of Tawau's list

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The absence of the third name for the three posts of Umno vice-president in the Tawau Umno division's list will be referred to the supreme council. It will decide if the nominations are valid or not, party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

He said yesterday's move by the division - the first of 165 divisions to hold its annual general meeting - to nominate only two names for the three posts had raised the question as to whether it met the requirements.

Speaking at a Press conference, Khalil said normally divisions would not leave any slot for contested posts unfilled.

The Tawau division had nominated Sabah Umno chief Datuk Seri Osu Sukam and Negri Sembilan Umno chief Tan Sri Mohd Isa Samad for the post of vice-president.

It also nominated Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the posts of president and deputy president respectively. The Umno supreme council is scheduled to hold its monthly meeting on Monday.

Khalil said apart from the posts of vice-president, Umno divisions should make sure that they nominated 25 persons for seats in the supreme council.

"Anything less may lead to problems which can result in the nominations being invalid. The same applies to the Umno Youth and Wanita wings. I hope the media can highlight this so that divisions which hold their meetings after this will ensure that they observe this requirement."

In 1993 the Kubang Pasu division, in the run-up to the party elections, chose to abstain from nominating anyone for the deputy president's post. To this, Khalil said: "We want to make sure now that the divisions nominate the number of candidates consistent with the number of posts available."

He said nominations were crucial in this party elections as candidates were required to secure a certain percentage of the nominations to be eligible to contest.

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