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Razaleigh short of four votes for VP contest

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - With only nine out of the 165 Umno divisions yet to hold their meetings, the much asked question is whether Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah will eventually qualify to contest the vice-president's post.

So far 155 divisions have concluded their meetings and come out with their lists of nominations for the various posts.

However, delegates at the Gua Musang divisional meeting in Kelantan, did not make any nomination and left it to the division's committee to decide.

The division is headed by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah who now has 13 nominations and requires another four. He has a mathematical chance of making it and joining the other nine candidates who have qualified.

Those who have qualified are incumbent Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Johor Umno chief Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Selangor chief Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar, Sabah chief Datuk Seri Osu Sukam, Kota Tinggi division head Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Pagoh division head Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, incumbent Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd Taib, Negri Sembilan chief Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad and Jelebu division adviser Datuk Dr Rais Yatim.

The others who were nominated but failed to make it are Perak chief Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali and former Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, with three and one nomination respectively.

Meanwhile, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were nominated by the Kuala Kangsar, Bukit Gantang, Shah Alam and Gombak divisions today for the posts of party president and deputy president respectively.

With this, Dr Mahathir has received 154 nominations and Abdullah, 153. Both won the posts uncontested last week.

For the vice-president's post, Najib and Abu Hassan were nominated by all the four divisions. Osu, Syed Hamid, Muhammad and Mohd Isa received one nomination each from the Kuala Kangsar, Gombak, Shah Alam and Bukit Gantang divisions respectively.

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