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Umno-Posts

THREE POSTS EXPECTED TO BE WON UNCONTESTED

KUALA LUMPUR, March 20 (Bernama) -- Three posts are expected to be won uncontested in the Umno election in May following the increasing number of nominations received by the main contenders while their challengers have so far only received one nomination each.

The posts of president, deputy president and Umno Youth head appeared most likely to be won uncontested.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is Umno president has received 78 nominations compared to his sole challenger, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, the Kelantan Umno liaison chief, who has so far only received one nomination, from the Tanah Merah division.

Dr Mahathir needs another 38 nominations before he could emerge winner in the race. He needs 116 nominations to win uncontested.

He appeared certain to be able to receive that number of nomination this week as 50 Umno divisions holding their delegates conferences from Thursday to Sunday will surely abide by the advice of the Umno Supreme Council and nominate him for the presidency.

In the event that Tengku Razaleigh fails to receive 49 more nominations required to qualify to contest for the post when all the divisions have held their delegates conferences at the end of the month, Dr Mahathir will automatically win uncontested.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who has also received 78 nominations for the post of deputy president, requires 133 nominations to win the post uncontested.

His sole contender, Tengku Razaleigh, has received only one nomination, also from the Tanah Merah division.

For the post of Umno Youth head, acting head Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein who has received 114 nominations compared to his sole contender, Tanjong Umno Youth division head Raja Munir Raja Mustapha, who has received only one nomination, appeared comfortable enough to win the post uncontested.

Raja Munir was nominated by his own division.

However, contests for the three posts of vice president and the posts of Wanita Umno head, deputy Wanita Umno head and Umno Youth deputy head will be tough.

So far, nine of the 11 contenders for the three posts of vice president continue to receive an increasing number of nominations from the 27 divisions which held their divisional conferences last week.

The contenders are incumbent Datuk Seri Najib Razak (75), Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman (45), Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar (31), Datuk Osu Sukam (22), Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Samad (16), Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar (13), Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib (12), Datuk Rais Yatim (10), Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (8) and Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali who received two nominations each.

However, Tajol Rosli has earlier announced that he will not be contesting for the post at the party election.

Najib, Abdul Ghani, Abu Hassan and Osu have already qualified to contest for the post. Candidates are required to receive 17 nominations to enable them to contest.

Five others are also expected to qualify to contest as 86 other divisions have yet to hold their delegates conferences.

For the post of Wanita Umno head, incumbent Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman and former head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz already qualified to

contest and more nominations are coming in for both of them.

Those vying for the post need to have 33 nominations. Rafidah now has 64 and Siti Zaharah 46.

For the post of deputy Wanita Umno head, Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and Ainon Khariyah Mohamed Abas already qualified to contest while incumbent Datuk Napsiah Omar requires 13 more nominations to qualify to defend her post.

Contenders for the post need to have 26 nominations. Shahrizat has 64 and Ainon Khariyah 33.

For the post of Umno Youth deputy head, Zein Isma Ismail requires five more nominations to qualify to contest. Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir already has 87 nominations.

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