

01/07/2000

Umno fulfils promise (HL)

Ainon Mohd

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Umno today fulfilled its promise of bigger women's representation in its highest decision-making body when it named three Wanita members to sit in the supreme council.

The three, former Wanita chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, Wanita Exco member Dr Norraesah Mohamad and lawyer Azalina Othman Said, a new face in the party, will join Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz who also sits as council member by virtue of her post as Wanita chief.

Azalina is legal adviser to Hawa (Women's Affairs Committee) Selangor.

The appointment of the 10 supreme council members produced another surprise in the inclusion of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who many thought would not make it after he failed to qualify for a vice-president's post in the Umno general assembly in May.

Under the Umno constitution, the party president has the prerogative to appoint 10 members to the council. Another 25 members are elected.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, a new face in Umno, has also been roped in as council member, a move reflecting the importance of education to the party.

For youth, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has appointed Umno Youth information chief Azimi Daim.

A Menteri Besar and Chief Minister who lost in their bids for the three Umno vice-president posts were also among those appointed, thus ending speculation that MBs and Chief Ministers who lost in the party election would be left out.

They are Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Osu Sukam.

Notably missing from the list were Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar and Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Isa Abdul Samad.

Abu Hassan, Abdul Ghani, Isa and Osu failed in their bids for the vice-president posts.

Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim was also appointed. Also in was former Deputy Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Idris Jusoh.

At a press conference to announce the appointments, Umno executive secretary Tengku Datuk Adnan Tengku Mansor said the newly appointed council members had been asked to attend the supreme council meeting in Ipoh on Monday.

Tengku Adnan also announced the appointments of State liaison heads with deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi heading the Penang and Terengganu Umno liaison committees.

Except for Terengganu, Kelantan, Federal Territory, Penang, and Pahang, all Menteris Besar and Malacca and Sabah Chief Ministers have been retained as Umno liaison heads of their respective States.

The liaison heads are Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali (Perak), Abu Hassan (Selangor), Isa (Negri Sembilan), Datuk Mohd Ali Rastam (Malacca), Abdul Ghani (Johor), Osu (Sabah), Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain (Kedah) and Shahidan (Perlis).

Two vice-presidents Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib were appointed the deputy liaison chiefs for Johor and Selangor respectively.

The others are Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib (Perak), Datuk Mohd Khalid Yunus (Negri Sembilan), Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Ithnin (Malacca), Datuk Mohd Salleh Keruak (Sabah), Datuk Abdul Hamid Othman (Kedah) and Datuk Azmi Khalid

(Perlis).

Party secretary-general Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob was re-appointed Pahang liaison head replacing Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, who is now the deputy - the only MB not appointed to head his State's liaison committee.

Newly elected Umno information chief Datuk Mustapha Mohamad was appointed Kelantan liaison chief taking over from Tengku Razaleigh. Datuk Annuar Musa will be his deputy.

Penang Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahya has been appointed Penang deputy liaison chief while Idris Jusoh replaces Datuk Yusof Nor as the Terengganu deputy liaison chief.

Tengku Adnan was appointed the Federal Territory liaison chief, replacing Datuk Sulaiman Mohamed.

(END)