

Keen contest for 10 division heads posts in Selangor

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Ten of the 17 Umno divisions in Selangor are expected to see keen contests in next month's elections.

The much watched division is Hulu Langat where incumbent and Selangor Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Ahmad is expected to face committee member Ahmad Kuris Mohd Nor.

The division is split into two factions. The opponents had protested strongly when Zainal Abidin was tipped to be appointed Menteri Besar after the sudden resignation of Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar.

The issue became so serious that Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had to summon Ahmad Kuris and several of the committee members who had put up protest posters in the constituency.

Another division to see a keen fight is Selayang. Its head Datuk Saidin Thamby will not be contesting due to an ongoing corruption case in court against him.

There is no clear indication of the personalities who will contest

In Kuala Selangor Abu Hassan has expressed intention not to defend his post as division head. Here a two cornered fight between is expected between vice head Jaha ya Ibrahim and a former Youth chief.

In the Klang division incumbent Datuk Zakaria Md Derus is expected to face a challenge but until today the candidate is lying low.

In the PJ Utara division sources say incumbent head Datuk Ghazi Ramli is expected to step down for personal reasons. A tough fight is expected between two factions.

The same is expected in the Hulu Selangor division headed by Datuk Mohd Idris Abu Bakar.

Sources say the division's deputy chief Datuk Zainal Abidin Sakom has expressed his intention to contest for the top post.

The Gombak division incumbent Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail is expected to be challenged by her deputy Datuk Fuad Hassan.

Several other division heads have also expressed their intention to make way for younger candidates.

Sabak Bernam division head Datuk Mahbud Hashim is expected to make way for Datuk Raja Ideris Raja Ahmad while Datuk Zainal Dahalan is expected to go for the

deputy head's post.

In Tanjung Karang incumbent Datuk Amin Taib is stepping down in favour of Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo.

In Kapar its chief Datuk Onn Ismail is expected to give way to his deputy Datuk Rahman Palil while incumbent vice head Datuk Jaei Ismail will go for the deputy's post.

In Subang there was talk that a committee member will take on the head Datuk Mokhtar Dahalan.

According to sources the member has been asked to withdraw and Mokhtar is not expected to face any challenge - as of now. However no one can be sure whether the compromise will work.

For the Shah Alam division incumbent head Datuk Salamon Selamat is expected to face a challenge from his deputy Datuk Mohd Zin Mohamed who is the MP for Shah Alam.

The divisions which are not likely to see any contest are Serdang headed by Mohd Satim Diman, Sepang headed by Datuk Mohd Shariff Jajang, Kuala Langat headed by Datuk Fatah Iskandar, PJ Selatan headed by Datuk Zahar Hashim and the Ampang Jaya division headed by Datuk Mufti Shuib.