

Seasoned leaders retained in Perak

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Tried-and-true picked for Umno posts

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THE adage "better the devil you know than the devil you don't" seems the best way to describe the events which unfolded during the recently-concluded Perak Umno delegates' meetings and elections.

True, there were undeniably stiff contests for top posts in several divisions, but almost all the incumbent heads retained their seats, albeit with slim majorities.

Still, the defeat of aspiring candidates for the chief posts revealed that many were not willing to accept a change in the leadership, especially by the much younger people.

Take the Lumut and Tapah divisions for instance, where the heads were challenged by division Youth leaders who were earlier re-elected to their positions but wished to "stretch their luck further".

while the other two were soundly defeated.

The two who lost their seats were Abdul Rahman Sulaiman (Parit Buntar) and Datuk Yahya Shafie (Ipoh Timur).

Incumbent heads who retained their seats with slim majorities were Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib (Pasir Salak) who got through with an 11-vote majority, Datuk Padil Harun (Sungai Siput) with eight votes, and Mustafa Kamal Nawi (Gopeng) with six votes.

The biggest casualty was Temenggor Assemblyman Mokhtaruddin Mohamed Kaya who is the only *wakil rakyat* to have been defeated.

Mokhtaruddin, a two-term Assemblyman, lost in the contest for the Grik division deputy chief's post, of which he was the incumbent.

The winner was division secretary Hasbullah Osman, who is Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli

gates' meeting, it was not change that the delegates were looking for, but rather the challenge between the strong and the weak, and the old and the new.

With such a scenario it seems Perak Umno chief Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali will have quite a task at hand.

First, he will have to do a post-mortem of the election results and second, he will have to work at closing the ranks.

On closing ranks, Tajol Rosli has proposed that new division leaders take the initiative to include those who lost in the elections as members in the division committees.

Tajol Rosli said this also applied to those who won their posts uncontested.

While some division leaders have supported Tajol Rosli's suggestion, others have balked at the idea saying it is impossible to make amends, especially when "people are out to kill you".