

Dr M to open Upko congress on Monday

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KOTA KINABALU: Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad will be in Sabah on the heels of the Likas by-election victory to open the United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation (Upko) congress on Monday.

The opening of the congress will be the main event for the Prime Minister during his one-day visit to the state, a week after Barisan Nasional's Datuk Yong Teck Lee recaptured the Likas state seat with a 7,541 vote majority defeating three other candidates.

Upko information chief Wilfred Tangau said the congress would see contests for the five vice-president, 16 supreme council and the Youth chief posts.

Those in the running for

incumbents — Datuk Steven Kutai, Datuk Ewon Ebin, Datuk Baggai Basirun, Datuk Joseph Sutin Saang, Datuk Tan Yong Gee, Datuk Saibul Supu and Datuk Siringan Gubat.

All seven were made vice-presidents at Upko's last congress but the party has since specified that there would be five elected posts and two others to be appointed.

Another 29 people are in the running for 16 elected posts in the party's supreme council.

Upko officials however said the key contest was for the job of Youth chief where incumbent Datuk Kalakau Untol has been challenged by his deputy Philiq Lasimbane, the Penampang MP.

Party executive secretary Datuk Alex Martin said Upko

Dompok and his deputy Datuk Wilfred Bumburing had been returned unopposed to their posts by the party divisions when nominations for the elections closed on July 16.

Upko Wanita chief Senator Datuk Christine Vanhouten and her deputy Jaina Sintian were also returned unopposed.

Wilfred said delegates at the congress, were expected to pass three resolutions but he declined to say what they were.

However other party officials said one of the resolutions would be to call for the establishment of a royal commission of inquiry on illegal immigrants in the state.

Upko has some 100,000 members at its 26 divisions and 1,720 branches throughout