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Umno-Roundup

A BLEND OF OLD AND NEW FACES AMONG UMNO DIVISION CHIEFS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were among the Umno division chiefs who were returned unopposed in the divisional elections held throughout this month.

In KEDAH, Dr Mahathir, who has been leading the Kubang Pasu division since 1974, was among 11 of the 15 division heads who retained their posts, six of them without contest.

Others who won the post uncontested include the Prime Minister's Religious Adviser Datuk Paduka Abdul Hamid Othman (Sik), Tun Daim Zainuddin's political secretary Datuk Arzmi Abd Hamid (Merbok) and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (Kulim/Bandar Baharu).

Apart from Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain who was returned unopposed in Kuala Kedah, there were three other new faces, all former deputy chiefs who managed to beat their "bosses".

They are state executive councillor Datuk Zainol Md Isa who beat former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Raja Ariffin Raja Sulaiman in Baling, former executive councillor Abdul Rahman Ariffin who beat Datuk Hanafi Ramli in Jerlun, and another former executive councillor Datuk Ghazali Ibrahim who beat former Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Afiffuddin Omar in Padang Terap.

However, the election results in Padang Terap have yet to be confirmed after a complaint was lodged with the Kedah Umno Elections Committee that there were more ballot papers than the number of delegates present during voting. The matter has been referred to the Umno Supreme Council for a decision.

In the contests for the deputy chief's post, the Kulim/Bandar Baharu division saw its Youth head Azimi Daim, who is also a Umno Supreme Council member, failing to unseat incumbent Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman.

Di PENANG, eight incumbent division chiefs were returned unopposed while there were two new faces. One other division has yet to hold its delegates meeting due to internal problems.

Besides Abdullah, who won the Kepala Batas division chief's post uncontested, other leaders returned unopposed were Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya (Balik Pulau), Deputy Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shariff Omar (Tasek Gelugor) and state executive councillor Datuk Rashid Abdullah.

One of the two new faces is Datuk Ahmad Saad (Permatang Pauh) who had been acting as the division chief after Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was dismissed from Umno.

The other is Datuk Musa Sheikh Fadzir who won uncontested in Bukit Mertajam after the incumbent, Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad, failed to secure enough nominations to be eligible to recontest.

The Jelutong division is the only division in Penang that has yet to hold elections. This is due to problems involving eight branches in the division,

In JOHOR, 14 incumbent division chiefs were returned unopposed, another five incumbents retained their posts after a contest while one incumbent failed to make it.

Among those who won the post uncontested are Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman (Ledang), Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri

Muhyiddin Yassin (Pagoh), Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein (Tenggara) and Deputy Human Resources Minister Dr Abdul Latif Ahmad (Mersing).

Former Information Minister Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat retained the Pulau division chief's post uncontested while his son Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed won the deputy chief's post, also without contest.

Parit Sulong member of parliament Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad did not defend the vice-chief's post in the Parit Sulong division after withdrawing from the contest.

In KELANTAN, 11 of the 14 division chiefs retained their positions, five of them without contest.

The five are state Umno chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed (Jeli), former state chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (Gua Musang), former Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa (Peringat), former Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ibrahim Ali (Pasir Mas) and Tuan Hashim Tuan Yaacob (Kubang Kerian).

Two veteran Umno leaders who failed to retain the division chief's post are Datuk Ahmad Rastom Ahmad Maher (Kota Baharu) and Datuk Ariffin Abdul Hamid (Pengkala Chepa).

Another veteran leader Tan Sri Hussein Ahmad, the former Umno information chief, also failed in his bid to retain the Rantau Panjang division chief's post when he was beaten by Mohd Zin Ismail.

In PERLIS, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid were returned unopposed as division chief in Arau and Padang Besar respectively.

Former deputy Home Minister Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad won the Kangar division chief's post, vacated by Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh, after beating Ahmad Bakri Datuk Ali.

In PERAK, 14 of the 23 divisions saw the division chief's post uncontested in line with Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali's advice.

Tajol Rosli himself was returned unopposed in the Gerik division.

Former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, currently Deputy Transport Minister, managed to retain the Pasir Salak division head's post despite a stiff challenge from former Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin, who was once the Gopeng division head, failed to return to the post which was won by incumbent Mustapha Kamal Nawi.

Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz became the new Chenderoh division head after incumbent Datuk Talha Ismail made way for him.

Similarly, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin won the Bagan Serai division chief's post after incumbent Datuk Qamaruzzaman Ismail made way.

In SABAH, all 18 of the 20 divisions that have held their delegates meeting so far saw their chiefs retaining the post, 13 of them without contest.

Among those who won uncontested are former chief minister and state Umno chief Datuk Osu Sukam (Papar), State Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Salleh Tun Said (Kota Belud) and Land and Cooperative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam (Kinabalu).

Other Sabah Umno leaders who retained their division chief's post are Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Shafie Apdal (Semporna), Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Lajim Ukin (Beaufort), State Finance Minister Datuk Musa Aman (Libaran) and State Youth Development, Culture and Sports Minister Datuk Yahya Hussin (Penampang).

In NEGERI SEMBILAN which has seven divisions, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim and Datuk Lilah Yasin were returned unopposed as the division chief in Telok Kemang, Jelebu and Jempol respectively.

Datuk Abu Zahar Ujang, the Kuala Pilah division chief since 1987, was unseated by Senaling state assemblyman Ismail Lasim.

Another veteran leader, Datuk Napsiah Omar, failed to defend the Kuala Pilah Wanita Umno head's post.

In PAHANG, six of the 11 divisions saw the incumbent chiefs retaining their posts without contest. In another four divisions, the incumbents made way for new faces.

Among the division chiefs who retained their posts are Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob (Bentong), Defence Minister and party vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak (Pekan) and Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Tan Mohd Aminuddin Ishak (Maran).

The Paya Besar division saw acting division chief Ahmad Tajuddin Sulaiman winning the chief's post uncontested. The post was vacant after Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob relinquished it.

The Kuantan division has been suspended from holding its delegates meeting by the Umno Supreme Council on March 31.

In MELAKA, four of the five divisions -- Batu Berendam, Alor Gajah, Kota Melaka and Selandar -- saw the incumbent division chief retained for another term.

The exception was Jasin division where former Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin was unseated by his deputy, Datuk Ahmad Hamzah.

Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam and Mara chairman Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop won uncontested in Batu Berendam and Alor Gajah respectively.

Former Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik failed for the second time to take over as the Kota Melaka division chief, losing to incumbent Datuk Amid Nordin.

In the FEDERAL TERRITORY, Umno executive secretary Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Suleiman Mohamad were returned unopposed as division chief in Seputeh and Titiwangsa respectively.

Three other divisions -- Kepong, Cheras and Labuan -- also saw the incumbents returned unopposed, while six divisions saw contests for the post.

In TERENGGANU, six division chiefs were returned to the post unopposed.

They include deputy state Umno head Datuk Idris Jusoh (Besut) and former Deputy Agriculture Minister Datuk Dr Tengku Mahmud Mansor (Setiu).

In SELANGOR, 13 of the 17 division chiefs retained their posts, nine of them without contest.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo became the Tanjung Karang division chief after the incumbent, Datuk Mohd Aini Taib, made way.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Mohd Saleh was returned unopposed as the Kuala Langat division deputy chief, while Deputy Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Zainal Dahlan retained the post of Sabak Bernama division deputy chief.

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