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Do your duty, new divisional chiefs told

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised newly-elected Umno divisional chiefs to discharge their duties well for the good of the party.

He said new division chiefs and those who retained their divisional posts should uphold the trust given them by delegates.

"If you have been elected, congratulations. Then do your duty well and to those who have lost they should support those who have won," Dr Mahathir told reporters after launching a dental refill called "Silvefil" at the Technology Park Malaysia here.

The Prime Minister was commenting on a report in a Bahasa Malaysia daily that corporate figures and children of former ministers were among five new faces elected to head divisions after 24 of 165 divisions had held their delegates conference till now.

Among the new faces are Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz (the son of former Social Welfare Minister Tan Sri Aishah Ghani), who defeated Wangsa Maju Member of Parliament Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique for the Wangsa Maju division chief post.

Another is Nepline Bhd chairman and chief executive Datuk Dr Nik Zain Omar who won the Pengkalan Chepa division chief post by defeating incumbent of 15 years, Datuk Mohd Arifin Abdul Hamid.

Three others are Jenderak State Assemblyman Datuk Mohamed Jaafar (Mentakab), former State Assemblyman Datuk Ahmad Saad (Permatang Pauh) and Labuan MP Datuk Suhaili Abdul Rahman (Labuan).

On the keen competitions expected at divisional level this weekend, especially, to wrest the Pasir Salak (Perak) division chief post, Dr Mahathir said it was up to the members to choose whom they wanted.

In Pasir Salak, former Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob will challenge former Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib who is now the Deputy Transport Minister at the delegates meeting on Sunday.

Ramli has been the division head and Megat Junid his deputy since 1982.

On allegations of use of money in campaigning, Dr Mahathir said: "If we have the proof, we will take action. But everybody talks about the use of money but when we look for evidence we cannot find proof. So we cannot just take action based on accusations but without proof."

He was also asked about Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz's statement last night that she felt that the party should abolish the current minimum nomination quota required by a candidate to contest posts in the divisional level except for the party president and deputy president.

Dr Mahathir said the decision on the quota system was made by the party and not the party leadership.

"I did not make the decision. The supreme council made the decision".