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Umno-Secretaries

KUBANG PASU UMNO POLLS TO SEE CLASH OF PM'S POLITICAL SECRETARIES

ALOR SETAR, April 2 (Bernama) -- The upcoming contest for the Kubang Pasu Umno division vice-chief post will see a clash between the present and former political secretaries to the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's current political secretary Datuk Johari Baharom will challenge former political secretary Datuk Saad Man for the post, said division assistant secretary Shamsuddin Ahmad.

Johari is currently division treasurer while Saad is the incumbent vice-chief.

Johari was appointed Dr Mahathir's political secretary early last year succeeding Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin upon Aziz's appointment as Deputy Education Minister.

Saad, who was removed as political secretary to Dr Mahathir after the 1999 general election, was replaced by Datuk Dusuki Ahmad. The prime minister has two political secretaries.

Shamsuddin said Johari has secured 105 nominations from the branches against 16 for Saad for the division vice-chief post. There are 126 Umno branches in Kubang Pasu.

Besides defending his present post Saad will also challenge incumbent deputy chief and former Kedah menteri besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff, who is also the prime minister's personal representative for the constituency.

Saad has secured 29 nominations while Osman, 96 for the deputy division chief post, said Shamsuddin.

Dr Mahathir, who is the MP for Kubang Pasu, was solidly returned unopposed with all the 126 branches nominating him to continue leading the Kubang Pasu division, he said.

Kubang Pasu Wanita Chief Barishah Saad, who is the state assemblywoman for Tunjang, was also returned unopposed based on nominations secured while incumbent Youth Chief Radzi Ayob will be challenged by Izhar Ismail.

Radzi has garnered 56 nominations against Izhar's 19.

Meanwhile, state Umno executive secretary Bakri Ali Mahamad said 11 of the 15 divisions in Kedah had fixed dates for their delegates' meetings namely Alor Setar (April 7), Pokok Sena (April 13), Jerlun and Merbok (April 14), Langkawi (April 19), Padang Terap, Pendang, Yan, Sik and Padang Serai (April 21) and Baling (April 28).

Kubang Pasu, Sungai Petani, Kuala Kedah and Kulim/Bandar Baharu have yet to fix dates for their delegate's meetings.

-- BERNAMA

JM RYN