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Seven out of 10 divisional leaders returned unopposed

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Seven of the 10 Umno divisions which concluded their delegates' meetings today saw the division chiefs being returned unopposed.

In two divisions, the incumbents retained their posts while in the other division, a new face was elected as the incumbent did not defend his position.

In Kangar, former division deputy head Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad won the division head's post by an overwhelming majority of 144 votes.

Radzi, who is former Deputy Home Minister, secured 251 votes to defeat former State Youth chief Ahmad Bakri Ali, who only managed to get 107 votes.

Incumbent Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh did not seek re-election.

For the deputy head's post, Azam Rashid, who is Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim's special functions officer, scored a major upset when he defeated two State Assemblymen, Bakar Saad of Kuala Perlis and Md Isa Sabu of Bintong.

Azam's 144 votes gave him a slim win over Md Isa's 140 and Bakar's 74.

In another close contest for the vice-chief's post, committee member Azmi Suboh defeated incumbent Mohd Hadzi Nordin, who is also the Kayang State Assemblyman as well as his brother Hashim Suboh.

Azmi secured 130 votes against Mohd Hadzi's 124 and Hashim's 101.

In Besut, deputy head Datuk Idris Jusoh was named as the new head replacing two-term incumbent Datuk Mohd Yusof Nor, who has agreed to accept the division vice-chief's post, to make way for Idris.

Incumbent deputy chief Datuk Wan Zakaria Abdul Rahman was returned unopposed.

In Tenggara, the incumbent division head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and his deputy Mohd Ameran Soheran were returned unopposed.

Former division chief, Asmaon Ismail, who was nominated for the number two post, had withdrawn from contesting.

Asmaon, former political secretary to Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin when he was Johor Menteri Besar, had earlier failed in his bid to challenge Hishammuddin due to the lack of nominations.

The division's Wanita head, Halimah Mohd Sadique, who is also State Wanita chief also won unopposed.

The deputy post was won by former Wanita division secretary, Salasiah Idris, who received 78 votes to beat Sakina Mohd Sadique, who is Halimah's elder sister, and Minah Rahmah, who both received 57 and 56 nominations respectively.

In Petaling Jaya Selatan, the division chief's post was won unopposed for the fifth term by Datuk Zahar Hashim.

The deputy head's post was won by former division treasurer Wahab Ibrahim who received 162 votes as compared to former Youth head Mat Ali Omar, who obtained 122 votes. There were four spoilt votes.

The post fell vacant after former deputy head Mohamad Ezam Mohd Nor left Umno to join Keadilan.

Incumbent Wanita head Datin Paduka Norkhaila Jamaluddin was also returned unopposed.

In Bentong, incumbent division head and Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob was also returned unopposed.

In Pasir Mas, the division head Datuk Ibrahim Ali dan his deputy Datuk

Abdul Rahim Abdul Rahman were also returned unopposed.

In Padang Serai, incumbent division head Hadzir Ismail defeated his deputy Yusof Harun by 55 votes to retain his post.

Hadzir obtained 178 votes while Yusof received 123.

The deputy head's post was won by former Youth head Abdul Halim Mohamad who defeated Datuk Abdul Rahim Razak by two votes.

Abdul Halim received 150 votes while Abdul Rahim garnered 148 votes.

Meanwhile, in the Wanita divisional elections, Jasin Wanita Umno head Ramlah Abas retained her post by 20 votes after defeating Rosnani Ahmad.

Ramlah, who is an Exco member and Malacca Wanita Umno liaison committee deputy head, polled 108 votes while Rosnani secured 88 votes.

Zaleha Bujang won the deputy's post after defeating Patimah Kidin by 18 votes.

In the Youth divisional elections, former Jasin Youth treasurer, Mohd Yazed Khamis, won the youth head's post by a narrow majority of seven votes.

Mohd Yazed obtained 98 votes while his challenger, former deputy head Mutalib Che Man received 91 votes.

The deputy head post was won by Sabarudin Said who secured 102 votes against his two challengers - Mohd Nasir Selamat (76 votes) and Zulkifli Samad (12).

In Alor Star, Former Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Afiffuddin Omar lost the Padang Terap Umno division chief post to his deputy Datuk Ghazali Ibrahim by 19 votes.

Afiffuddin garnered 165 votes compared to Ghazali's 184 votes.

In Jitra, Former Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff retained his Kubang Pasu Umno division deputy chairman post after defeating his challenger Datuk Saad Man.

Osman received 199 votes, beating Saad by a 21-vote majority.

Osman is Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's personal representative in Kubang Pasu while Saad, who is the division vice-chief, is Dr Mahathir's former political secretary.

Dr Mahathir won the division chief post unopposed.

The Prime Minister's political secretary Datuk Johari Baharom also won the vice-chief post unopposed after Saad decided not to defend his post.

In Pendang, incumbent Datuk Othman Abdul defeated challenger Md Rozai Shapian, who is the Sungai Tiang Assemblyman, by just 10 votes.

Othman, who was the former Pendang MP and parliamentary secretary in the Prime Minister's Department secured 228 votes compared to Rozai's 280.

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