

# 'Much-awaited' Putrajaya Umno division formed

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KUALA LUMPUR: The "much-awaited" Putrajaya Umno division has been formed.

Heading the pro-tem committee is Umno executive secretary Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, who is also the Federal Territory Umno liaison chief.

Tengku Adnan, who is also Seputeh Umno division chief, said his position as the Federal Territory liaison chief makes it possible for him to "hold both divisions at the same time."

"Also, my position at Putrajaya is only a pro-tem post," he added.

However, it is expected that he would drop Seputeh in favour of Putrajaya in the Umno division elections next year.

Tengku Adnan, who is currently in Europe, said in a telephone interview yesterday that the Putrajaya division was formed on Aug 12.

"The first pro-tem committee meeting was held on Aug 22. We have elected the pro-tem office bearers as required by the party constitution," he added.

He said efforts were under way to formalise the formation of the division soon.

"We have notified Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob on its formation," he said, adding that at the moment, members of the

Putrajaya Umno division had been told to get "cracking on a massive recruitment drive."

"We expect to rope in at least 5,000 new members over the next few weeks," he said.

Tengku Adnan's appointment as the pro-tem division chief silences the opposition's prediction that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would contest in the next general election on a "Putrajaya ticket."

Dr Mahathir has not been named to any post in the Putrajaya pro-tem committee and is still the Kubang Pasu division chief.

Tengku Adnan said "dozens of branches" would also be set up within the Putrajaya parliamentary constituency over the next few weeks.

In a related development, Parti Keadilan Nasional will be applying soon to the Registrar of Societies to form its division in Putrajaya.

"We had scheduled it for earlier but the order from the leadership is that all new divisions should be registered together," said the party's executive secretary, Hanapih Man, adding that this would probably be in November.

It was not known whether PAS will also set up a division in Putrajaya as its information chief Azizan Abdul Razak is in Mecca to perform the *umrah*.