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Azalina receives more nominations

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Kubang Pasu Puteri Umno division which held its meeting today, unanimously nominated pro-tem chief Azalina Othman Said to contest the movement's top post.

The division also nominated the movement's pro-tem secretary Noraini Ahmad for the deputy chief post.

The Puteri Umno divisional meetings resumed today with two meetings in Kedah (Kubang Pasu, Kuala Nerus), three in Terengganu (Kemaman, Setiu, Rantau Panjang) and one in Tanah Merah, Kelantan.

Besides Kubang Pasu, Azalina was also nominated by five other divisions which met today, bringing her tally to 59.

So far, Azalina is the only one to have received nominations and qualified to contest while the other four aspirants, Ummi Hafilda Ali, former Puteri Umno information chief Mastina Abdul Hamid, Raihan Sulaiman @ Suleiman Palestin and Mazibah Mohd Zin, have yet to secure nominations to contest in the movement's election on Nov 1.

As for the deputy chief post, Noraini, who obtained six nominations today, led with 47 followed by Penang pro-tem chief Azlina Mehtab Mohd Ishaq (seven) and Pahang pro-tem chief Shahaniza Shamsudin (five).

Aspirants wishing to contest any post in the movement's election would need a minimum of two nominations to be eligible.

Kubang Pasu has always been the focus of attention when making nominations for party posts as it is the division led by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Though the Prime Minister had repeatedly pointed out that nominations from the division need not necessarily reflect his views or choice, those from outside the division tend to view otherwise.

Thus far, indications are strong that all divisions would nominate Azalina as candidate for the chief post. There was speculation that some divisions may opt to nominate others for the post.

The Tanah Merah division for instance, also nominated Azalina despite speculation that it would nominate its Wanita chief Datin Shuhanie Deraman.

Shuhanie, who is Tanah Merah Wanita chief, had earlier voiced her readiness to contest for the Puteri Umno's chief post if nominated.