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Syed Husin retained as president of PRM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Dr Syed Husin Ali was today retained as Parti Rakyat Malaysia president in the party's election which saw six new faces in the central working committee.

Former vice-president Rustam Sani, who is also an ex-lecturer from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, was elevated to the post of deputy president.

Abdul Razak Ahmad, the immediate past deputy president, rejected nominations to hold any posts due to health reasons.

Almost 200 delegates voted from a list of 32 candidates to fill up the 19 CWC seats.

The elected leaders then decided among themselves who should occupy the top party posts.

Also elected as one of the three vice-presidents were newcomer Dzulkifli Ismail from the Kuantan division. The other two were Sivarasa Rasiah and Lee Sang.

Dr Sanusi Othman was retained as secretary-general while his deputy was Ang Hiok Gai. Kho Swe Yong was named treasurer-general.

Besides Dzulkifli, the other new faces in the CWC were S.K. Song, Johnson Chong, Latheefa Koya, Mak Seong and Dr Rohanah Ariffin.

Speaking at a Press conference after the election, Syed Husin, who has been president since 1990, said the party had wrongly been portrayed as weak and lacking popular support.

"During the last general election, the party's three candidates who contested in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur garnered an average of 20,000 votes each. That is more than the Prime Minister's (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's) votes," Syed Husin said.

On the proposed merger with Parti Keadilan Nasional, Syed Husin said the congress today re-endorsed the memorandum of understanding which it was supposed to sign with Keadilan.

The MoU was endorsed in PRM's congress last year but Keadilan did not get the two-thirds majority required from its assembly.