

Fruitful day for Barisan Nasional women

KUALA LUMPUR: It was a fruitful day for Barisan Nasional women candidates when four of them were returned unopposed.

Puteri Umno chief Datuk Azalina Othman got off to a fine start in her debut appearance, when she was returned without contest in Pengerang in Johor.

Another leader, Sabah Puteri Umno chief Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin, won uncontested in Papar.

Beaufort Wanita Umno chief Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun won in Beaufort while Wanita PPB vice-chief Datuk Rohani Abdul Karim won in Batang Lupa parliamentary seat.

Barisan women filed their nominations for 60 parliamentary and state seats altogether yesterday, mostly in Selangor and Perak.

The women's charge was led by Wanita Umno chief and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, who is seeking a sixth term in the Kuala Kangsar parliamentary seat.

National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Seri Di Zaharah Sulaiman will defend the Paya Besar parliamentary seat in Pahang.

The Lembah Pantai parliamentary seat will be contested by Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, who is seeking a third term.

Wanita MCA chief and Second Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen is going for her second term in Raub, while

Wanita MIC central working committee member Komala Devi will defend her Kapar parliamentary seat.

The MCA's Tan Chew Mooi will do battle with three men, including incumbent Fong Kui Lun of the DAP, for the Rukit Bintang parliamentary seat.

The entrepreneur and mother of two, an engineer by profession, will also have MDP's Wee Choo Keong and independent Billi Lim Peng Soon to contend with.

In Perlis, the Sanglang state seat will

be contested by state 'Wanita Umno chief Datuk Mastika Junaidah Husin.

Parti Keadilan Nasional president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail will defend her Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat against Barisan's Datuk Pirdaus Ismail, who is the chief imam of the National Mosque.

Among the new faces vying for parliamentary seats are popular motivational speaker Datuk Dr Mashitah Ibrahim (Baling), Perak Wanita Gerakan chief Tan Lian Hoe (Bukit Gantang) and Selangor Wanita Umno secretary Noriah Kasnon (Sungai Besar).

Rosnah made history when she won unopposed and gave the movement its first seat in the state. She is also the youngest candidate in Sabah this general election.

At 32, the lawyer of mixed Dusun-Bajau-Pakistani and British parentage takes over the Papar parliamentary seat of former Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam.

"Of course, I am very surprised, I am as shocked as I was when I was selected as a Barisan candidate," said Rosnah, a single mother to an adopted son named Mahathir Musa Abdullah, who turns a year old on March 18.

Rosnah, who named the boy after former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed. Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, added: "I will try my very, very best to do the best for the people of Papar."