

28 JUN 2004  
Umno-Kedah  
AZMAN FAILS IN HIS BID TO UNSEAT SYED RAZAK

ALOR STAR, June 28 (Bernama) -- Deputy head of the Kuala Kedah Umno division Azman Abdul Manaf failed to secure the required number of nominations to challenge the incumbent divisional head, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain in the party election next month when he obtained only one nomination so far.

Azman, a businessman, was nominated by the Padang Jambu Dalam Umno branch while Syed Razak secured 144 nominations out of the 145 branches which had held their meetings.

Kuala Kedah Umno executive secretary Mohamad Zailani Endut said today Syed Razak would most likely retain the post of division head uncontested as there were only nine branches left that had yet to hold their meetings.

He said Azman must garner nominations from at least 30 branches to be eligible to contest for the post of division head.

He also said that Azman was almost certain to lose his present post of deputy head of the division as only two branches had so far nominated him for the post whereas the minimum number required is 20 nominations.

The division's Youth head, Hashim Jahaya, who is the Member of Parliament for Kuala Kedah, is currently leading the list in the tussle for the deputy head's post with 58 nominations.

Meanwhile, seven of the 15 Umno divisions in the state will see straight fights for the post of division head.

Kedah State Assembly Speaker Md Rozai Shafian is expected to be challenged by the former Pendang Assistant District Officer Azmi Din for the post of Pendang Umno head.

Md Rozai, who is the information chief for the division, received 86 nominations while Azmi secured 65. So far, 163 of the 177 branches in the division had held their meetings.

The post of Pendang division head falls vacant following the announcement by incumbent head Datuk Othman Abdul that he would not be defending his post to concentrate on his business.

In Pokok Sena, Umno division head Datuk Ahmad Lebai Sudin will be challenged by Parliamentary Secretary of the Home Affairs Ministry Datuk Abdul Rahman Ibrahim.

Ahmad has so far obtained 109 nominations out of the 149 branches that had held their meetings while Abdul Rahman, who is the Member of Parliament for Pokok Sena, has 40 nominations.

Meanwhile, in the Padang Terap Umno division, Datuk Ghazali Ibrahim, who has 85 nominations, will be challenged by the former Deputy Minister of Finance, Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar, who has 26 nominations, for the post of division head.

In Kubang Pasu, which had been synonymous with former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was the Member of Parliament for the constituency since 1974, there will also be a straight fight for the post of division head.

Incumbent head Tan Sri Osman Aroff will be challenged by the Member of Parliament for Kubang Pasu, Datuk Johari Baharom, who is also Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Department, as both have obtained the minimum number of nominations required.

State Executive Councillor for Housing, Local Government and Environment Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah will be challenged by the State Assemblyman for Alor Mengkudu, Fadzil Hanafi, for the post of Alor Star Umno head.

In Sungai Petani, the contest for the division head will be between incumbent Abu Bakar Ahmad, who has obtained 30 nominations, and Deputy Education Minister Datuk Mahadzir Mohd Khir who has garnered 50 nominations.

The Baling Umno head, Ismail Abu Bakar, who has 124 nominations, will be challenged by the division's information chief, Salleh Yaacob, who has secured 55 nominations for the post of division head.

Besides Syed Razak, who will retain the post of Kuala Kedah Umno head unopposed, seven other division heads who will be returned unopposed are Datuk Abdul Rahman Ariffin (Jerlun), Datuk Abu Bakar Taib

(Langkawi), Datuk  
Badruddin Amiruldin (Jerai).

Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Othman (Sik), Information Minister Datuk  
Paduka

Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (Kulim/Bandar Baharu), Datuk Mohd Hadzir  
Ismail

(Padang Serai) and Datuk Arzmi Hamid (Merbok).

-- BERNAMA

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