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Cheras picks Abdullah, Najib

By Zubaidah Abu Bakar

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Umno divisional elections kicked off today, with Cheras holding the first meeting and nominating Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the Umno president's post.

Abdullah, the deputy president, has been carrying out the duties of acting president since the party president's post fell vacant following Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's retirement in October.

The division, one of 13 in the Federal Territory, also nominated vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak for the deputy president's post. He is currently carrying out the duties of deputy president.

Incumbent vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, supreme council member and Federal Territory Minister Tan Sri Isa Samad, and supreme council member and Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam were nominated for the three vice-presidents' positions.

Delegates to the youth meeting nominated incumbent Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein for the national Youth Chief's post and Umno Youth exco member Khairy Jamaluddin as his deputy.

Wanita Umno delegates nominated incumbents Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil as the movement's chief and vice-chief.

The Puteri movement nominated Noraini Ahmad to head the movement and FT Puteri chief Azlinda Mohd Rashad for the number two post. The division also made nominations for the 25 supreme council seats. They are:

Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor (FT), Shahrizat (FT), Datuk Azalina Othman Said (Johor), Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (Kedah), Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim (Negri Sembilan), Datuk Abdul Aziz Samsuddin (Perak), Datuk Mohd Nazri Aziz (Perak), Datuk Mohd Khaled Nordin (Johor), Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis (Pahang), Datuk Shafie Apdal (Sabah), Datuk Dr Shafie Salleh (Selangor), and Datuk Seri Mohd Khir Toyo (Selangor).

The others are Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli (Perak), Datuk Mohamed Hassan Mohamed (Negri Sembilan), Datuk Musa Aman (Sabah), Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain (Kedah), Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (Perak), Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdullah (Penang), Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar (Penang), Datuk Noh Omar (Selangor), Datuk Tengku Putera Tengku Awang (Terengganu), Datuk Dr Awang Adek Husin (Kelantan), Datuk Dr Mohd Zain Mohamed (Selangor), Datuk Dr Noraesah Mohamed (FT), and Senator Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin (Perak).

The Batu Gajah division in Perak is the other division which held its meeting today. It nominated Abdullah and Najib for party president and deputy president respectively.

The division also nominated supreme council member Datuk Shahril Abdul Samad, Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam and Kelantan Umno deputy liaison chief Datuk Zaid Ibrahim for the vice-presidency posts.

Hishammuddin and Khairy were nominated for the youth chief and vice youth chief posts respectively.

Noraini was nominated for the Puteri chief post.

Two divisions in Kelantan - Kota Baru and Kuala Krai - will follow, with meetings on Friday.

All Umno's 191 divisions are scheduled to complete their meetings to elect their leaders and nominate candidates for the party's supreme council within two weeks.

Cheras pro-tem chief Senator Datuk Syed Ali Al-Habshee won the division chief's post uncontested.

Its youth wing now has a new chief, Syed Mehdhar Syed Abdullah, who won

the post uncontested. Pro-tem youth chief, Datuk Mahadi Abdul Shukor, hit the 40-year age limit.

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