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Umno division pro-tem heads pledge to work hard, serve people

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Newly-appointed Umno division pro-tem heads nationwide today pledged to work hard to strengthen the party's position and serve the people.

In Kelantan, Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin, who was appointed to lead the Bachok division, said he accepted the appointment as a challenge and would work hard to win all the seats in the division in the next election.

The State saw the highest number of divisional heads being replaced.

"There is a lot of work to be done and I hope all the groups in the division will give their support and co-operation," he said.

Awang Adek, who is Tenaga Nasional Bhd chairman, replaced Datuk Ahmad Shahibuddin Mohd Noor who held the position for 27 years.

In Johor, Ayer Hitam division head Hamzah Ramli, who is State Religious Affairs Committee chairman, said he was happy with the pro-tem committee line-up.

"Umno will work hard and co-operate with MCA and MIC members to face the general election," he said.

Pulai division head Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed, who replaced his father Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat, said he hoped to inculcate a work culture geared towards the party's objectives.

In Penang, Permatang Pauh division chief Datuk Abdul Jalil Abdul Majid described his appointment as a "heavy responsibility".

Jalil, who replaced Datuk Ahmad Saad, pledged to work hard to ensure Barisan Nasional's victory in the general election.

The division's former deputy chief said his immediate task was to restructure the Permatang Pauh division and to ensure orderliness in its election machinery.

"This coming election is a major battle for us," he said.

In Perak, Gopeng pro-tem chief Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin said his appointment should not be viewed as a threat to others. He said he had been an Umno member in Gopeng since 1975 and had headed the division from 1981 before being defeated by Mustapha Kamal in 1993.

"My main objective is to unite Umno members and strengthen co-operation with other BN component parties in the division," said Abdul Aziz, formerly political secretary to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the former Prime Minister.

In Kota Kinabalu, Kimanis division head Datuk Karim Bujang said it was a responsibility and not a privilege to be appointed to the post. The Sabah BN secretary hopes to establish a positive working relationship with those in the division.

Another new leader, John Ambrose, who heads the Penampang division, said the fact that he was appointed showed that Umno was fair to all, including non-Muslims.

"There are more professional non-Muslim Bumiputeras applying to join the party now and I am sure my appointment will attract more to do so."