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Umno pro-tem panels named

Patrick Sennyah; Chow Kum Hor

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Umno acting president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today announced the pro-tem committee line-up for its 191 divisions which saw Kubang Pasu division head Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad being replaced by former Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff.

Abdullah, who is the Prime Minister, said Dr Mahathir had expressed his intention not to hold any party post when he stepped down as the Prime Minister and Umno president last month.

There were new heads in six other divisions.

Most incumbent division heads were retained though some were picked to head new divisions created under the redelineation exercise of parliamentary boundaries.

Kelantan saw the largest number of division heads removed.

The changes in Kelantan were in Bachok which saw Datuk Awang Adek, who is Tenaga Nasional chairman, replacing division head Datuk Ahmad Shahibuddin Mohd Noor.

Datuk Abdul Rahim Abd Rahman replaced Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali in Pasir Mas; Datuk Ahmad Rosli Ibrahim replaced Tuan Hashim Tuan Yaakob in Kubang Krian; and Datuk Ramzi Abd Rahman, who is Abdullah's political secretary, replaced Datuk Wan Zaid Wan Abdullah in Kuala Krai.

"Kelantan is a special case which we are handling very carefully," Abdullah said after chairing a two-hour Umno Supreme Council meeting at the party headquarters here.

"We have made the decision and we expect all State Umno members to cooperate.

"Though we expect criticisms, it is time for everyone to think of the party and put self interest aside."

On the shakeup in Kelantan, he said he hoped the party would be better prepared to face Pas in the next general election.

While the many changes in Kelantan were expected within the Umno circle, the decision to retain former Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa as the Peringat pro-tem division chief came as a surprise.

There was speculation that Annuar, following controversies pertaining to funds managed by his ministry, would be one of the casualties in the new pro-tem line-up.

Abdullah said the decisions taken by the supreme council were final and there would be no more changes.

"We took all aspects into consideration, including the fact that some division heads were elected by the grassroots during the last party elections.

"The Umno management committee has been finalising the list for two months.

"The party headquarters will send the list to all division and State heads today and the appointments will take immediate effect.

"I hope there are no objections as the appointments made are for the good of the party and not for the interests of any gang, group or individual."

Abdullah, who is Terengganu Umno liaison chief, said there were no changes to the divisional heads in the Pas-led State.

On whether the division heads would contest in the general election, Abdullah said this was not necessarily the case.

In Penang, Abdullah was retained as Kepala Batas divisional head.

Datuk Abdul Jalil Abdul Majid replaced Datuk Ahmad Saad as Permatang Pauh division chief, the only division in Penang where there was a change.

In Bayan Baru, Datuk Mohd Zain Omar replaced Datuk Omar Fouza as the division chief while Omar was made the division chief for the newly created Bukit Gelugor division.

Batu Kawan is the other new division in Penang and it is led by Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad, a former Deputy Minister.

In Perak, Datuk Shahrani Mohamad was appointed as the chief for Lenggong, which is a new division, while Deputy Education Minister Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin was appointed Gopeng division chief. The Gopeng post was left vacant after its former chief Mustafa Kamal Mohd Nawi was suspended for six years for money politics.

In Pahang, Menteri Besar Datuk Adnan Yaakob remained as Bentong division chief and was also appointed to head the new Indera Mahkota division.

Datuk Omar Osman and Mohd Hayani Abd Rahman were appointed as the new Cameron Highlands and Bera division chiefs respectively.

Datuk Amir Hamzah Ahmad replaces Omar for the Lipis division chief's post.

In Selangor, vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib heads Kelana Jaya, one of the five new divisions created.

The heads in the other four new divisions are Datuk Noh Omar, who is a parliamentary secretary in the Prime Minister's Department (Tanjung Karang); Datuk Mat Arif Mat Yusof (Pandan); Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo (Serdang); and Datuk Mohd Zain Mohamad (Kota Raja).

Dr Khir also remains as Sungai Besar division chief.

In Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique and Senator Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor head the newly created Setiawangsa and Putrajaya divisions. Tengku Adnan is also Seputeh division chief.

Tengku Adnan, who is Umno executive secretary and a Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said three State liaison committee chairmen (Adnan Yaakob, Dr Khir and Tengku Adnan) were given the task of heading the additional new division as the supreme council felt these divisions needed their experience.

In Negri Sembilan, Datuk Mohamad Hassan was made the division chief for the new Rembau division, while Hashim Rusdi replaced Mohamad for the Rasah division head's post.

In Malacca, the chairmen of the new divisions are Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusof (Masjid Tanah); Yaakob Mohd Amin (Tangga Batu); and Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam (Bukit Katil).

Datuk Hamdin Abdollah replaced Abu Seman as Alor Gajah division chief.

In Johor, Datuk Halimah Sidek was the only woman divisional head nationwide, replacing Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein in Tenggara.

Hishammuddin heads the new Sembrong division.

The heads of the other new divisions in Johor are Baharom Mohamad (Sekijang); Datuk Amid Abd Rahman (Simpang Renggam); Harun Abdullah (Pengerang); Datuk Mohd Ali Hassan (Pasir Gudang); and Hamzah Ramli (Ayer Hitam).

Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed took over the Pulaui division from his father, Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat who is the Barisan Nasional secretary-general, the only other incumbent who was not retained.

In Sabah, former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia was appointed as Marudu division chief.

The heads of new divisions are Datuk Seri Paduka Yahaya Hussein (Putatan); John Ambrose (Penampang); Datuk Karim Bujang (Kimanis); Datuk Abdul Ghani Mohd Yassin (Pensiangan); and Jauhar Mahuruddin (Batu Sapi).

The Silam division is now headed by Shamsul Baharom after its former

head Datuk Yusof Amat Jamlee was suspended in 2002 for his involvement in money politics.