

Incumbents win VP posts
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There were no major surprises in the results for the three PKR vice-presidents' post but official results indicated that the party's Chinese leaders suffered a reduced representation in the influential supreme council's line-up.

The slots for the three vice-presidents' were won by Azmin Ali, Dr Lee Boon Chye and Mustaffa Kamil Ayub.

Azmin (photo) who defended his post after declining nominations for the deputy presidency, emerged on the top of the pile with 724 votes, followed by Dr Lee Boon Chye (630) and Mustaffa Kamil Ayub (604).

Dr Xavier Jayakumar and Fuziah Salleh - the ex-Wanita chief who called for 30 percent women representation in the party in her campaigning - returned fourth and fifth after receiving 486 and 478 votes respectively.

The official results were announced by the party's election committee head William Leong at 1.45pm at a Chinese high school in Seremban, where the annual party congress was being held.

Both Azmin and Lee were elected party vice-presidents in the last party election three years ago while Mustaffa was an appointed vice-president.

The PKR party constitution allows for two vice-presidents to be appointed by the president with the consent of the supreme council.

Another elected incumbent vice-president, R Sivarasa, has earlier pulled out of the race.

The sixth candidate in the vice-presidency race, Sabah's PKR deputy chief Dr Jeffrey Kitingan also withdrew from the contest yesterday.

He told delegates during the debate on the president's speech today that he withdrew from the race because "the party is more important".

There is a widespread speculation that he will be appointed as a vice-president by the party with the aim to increase the representation of Sabah in the party.

Dominique tops the list

Out of the 20-elected new supreme council members, Sarawak's Padungan state assemblyperson and incumbent Dominique Ng came top with 822 votes, followed by ex-ISA detainee Dr Badrul Amin (813) and Penang-based leader Dr Mansor Othman (766).

Lawyer R Sivarasa, who did not defend his vice-presidency, was at the fourth spot with 744 votes and N Gopalakrishnan received the fifth place with 676 votes.

There were eight new faces in the line-up, including Khalid Jaffar and Latheefa Koya.

Incumbents like Irene Fernandez, Animah Ferrar, Saiful Izham Ramli, Christina Liew and Johari Abdul were also returned to their post.

However, the Chinese representation in the supreme council - the party's highest decision-making body - suffered a setback.

The two Chinese leaders remaining in the new line-up both hail from East Malaysia but Peninsula-based incumbents like Low Chee Cheong, Cheah Kah Peng and Lee San, together with other Chinese candidates, all failed to make the final cut.

Pundits said this development could reduce the party's bargaining power in the impending seat allocation talks between PKR with Chinese-based DAP for the upcoming general election.

Immediately after the results were announced, a Malay delegate from the Youth wing went on the stage, interrupting the proceeding and voiced his concern that the new supreme council line-up "has no Chinese (from the Peninsula)".

However, he was stopped by the congress speaker before he could proceed.

The new line-up also reflected the failure to achieve the party's 30 percent women representation in the top posts.

The PKR party presidency was retained unopposed by Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail yesterday after two other contenders - Anwar Ibrahim and Abdul Rahman Othman - unexpectedly pulled out from the race at the eleventh hour.

Dr Syed Husin Ali also had won the deputy president's post uncontested earlier.

There were 1,009 delegates from a total of 1,775 that took part in the voting yesterday.

Discard 'menu politics'

The second PKR party elections, which is held every three years and hotly-contested this year, has been riddled with controversies on alleged interference from top leadership, resulting in leaders quitting the party in protest.

Final-minute lobbying was seen at the congress yesterday with the distribution of leaflets, name cards, manifesto calling on delegates to endorse certain candidate. The women wing members handed out badges of '30 percent women representation' calling for supports for women candidates.

Prior to the election, there was also wide circulation of several preferred candidates lists (photo), or popularly known as 'cai tan' (menu in Mandarin), during the election.

One 'cai tan' listed Anwar as the preferred presidency candidate but there were no other candidates named for the other posts. The other 'cai tan' meanwhile contained a 'team' headed by Rahman and named Lee, Mustaffa and Fuziah as the preferred vice-president candidates.

The third 'cai tan' called on the delegates to vote for Azmin and Fuziah.

Delegate Low Teck Hai who took part in the debate on the president's speech this morning urged the party to discard the culture of 'cai tan' in the party.

"There is no problem if a candidate wants to campaign for himself but if he wants to come out with a 'cai tan', that means he is not confident of himself and want to use other candidate's name to gain votes. We should abolish this culture," he said to the applause from the floor.

The three-day PKR annual congress, which began on Friday, ended today.

Below are the results:

President

Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail* (won uncontested)

Deputy president

Dr Syed Husin Ali* (won uncontested)

Vice-presidents

Azmin Ali* 724

Dr Lee Boon Chye* 630

Mustaffa Kamil Ayub* 604

Supreme council members

Dominique Ng* 822

Dr Badrul Amin* 813

Dr Mansor Othman* 766

R Sivarasa 744

N Gobalakrishnan 676

Dr Zaleha Mustaffa 633

Yahya Sahri* 558

Johari Abdul* 525

Irene Fernandez* 512

Christina Liew* 510

Usaili Alias* 463

Dr Zainal Abidin Ahmad* 453

Latheefa Koya 436

Saiful Izham Ramli* 430

Osman Abd Rahman* 428

Badrul Hisham Shahrin 419

Ansari Abdullah 411

Animah Ferrar* 410

Khalid Jaafar 394

Zakaria Abd Hamid 377

* Incumbents

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