

# Old guard take control

The Star - 1/6/2007

## Young, liberal leaders lose hold on positions in PAS

By IAN McINTYRE

**KOTA BARU:** The elections in the Ulama, Pemuda and Muslimat wings of PAS yesterday saw the conservatives re-establish their hold on the party.

The major upset occurred in the Dewan Muslimat, or women's wing, where the conservative-associated challengers were voted into power, signalling the grassroots' discontent with the young liberal leaders.

Nuridah Khatib Salleh and running mate Wan Hasrina Wan Hassan scored an upset when they defeated incumbent head and deputy head Azizah Khatib Mat and Dr Lo'Lo' Ghazali respectively.

However, it was a victory by a slim margin, with Nuridah securing 116 votes and Wan Hasrina getting 115 votes, out of a total of 227 votes. The votes secured by the losers were not revealed in line with the party practice.

The results were not surprising because the conservatives had won a good number of posts at the division level.

Elections for the three wings took place yesterday, while polling for the posts of deputy president, three vice-presidents and the central committee will be on today.

The election results, especially for the Youth and Muslimat wings, were a sharp contrast to the 2005 party polls when the so-called winds of change swept among the young professionals.

A potential contest for the leadership of the Dewan Pemuda fizzled out with Salahuddin Ayub winning uncontested for a third term.



**Youth heads:** Salahuddin is flanked by Nasruddin Hassan (right) and vice chief Azman Shapawi Abd Rahman.

The incumbent deputy Idris Ahmad did not defend his post, making way for Nasruddin Hassan@Tantawi.

Idris, an ulama figure from Perak, was nominated for the top post but declined to challenge Salahuddin. Over 70% of the Youth exco posts were won by ulama-type figures.

The transition of leadership in the Dewan Ulama

took place via the process of syurah or consultation.

Datuk Muhamad Daud took over as Dewan Ulama chief from Datuk Harun Taib, who is contesting the party's No. 2 post.

Muhamad is a trusted contemporary of Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat.

His deputy is another veteran, Hashim Jasin.

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