

UMNO Branch Meeting Period Ends At Midnight Sunday
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Almost all of Umno branches eligible to hold delegates' meetings are expected to complete their respective meetings by midnight Sunday.

The party has given almost two months for the branches to convene their annual meetings, from July 15 to Aug 31, but the deadline was changed to Sunday following Hari Raya and Merdeka Day celebrations.

UMNO spokesman said the exact number of UMNO branches which had completed their meetings had yet to be confirmed as they were still waiting for official information from the state UMNO headquarters.

"That information is expected to be available on Tuesday," he told Bernama in the capital.

There are 20,080 UMNO branches nationwide, but some had failed to meet certain conditions that prohibited them from holding their meetings.

Federal Territories UMNO Liaison Committee secretary Datuk Syed Ali Alhabshee said all of the 607 UMNO branches in Federal Territories had held their annual delegates' meetings.

Among the issues raised at those meetings were about some names of registered members being left out, while some were listed in other branches without their knowledge, he told Bernama.

He said all the issues and problems raised at the meetings would be compiled and submitted to UMNO headquarters next Tuesday for further action.

In SHAH ALAM, Selangor UMNO Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Seri Noh Omar said almost 95 per cent of the 2,333 branches in the state had completed their delegates' meetings, while the remaining were expected to complete theirs by midnight Sunday.

So far, the meetings were held without much problems, he said.

"Prior to this, certain branches failed to convene their meetings due to lack of quorum, but today, they managed to meet the quorum and hold their meetings," he said.

In PUTRAJAYA, Putrajaya UMNO deputy chief Datuk Khairudin Samad said 40 out of 43 eligible branches had held their delegates' meetings.

"The other three branches could not hold their respective meetings due to technical problems," he said.

In GEORGE TOWN, less than five per cent of the 665 Penang UMNO branches could not hold their delegates' meetings, due to certain issues, including lack of quorum.

State UMNO Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Musa Sheikh Fadzir said Penang UMNO would file an application to the Supreme Council to have the deadline extended to enable

those branches to hold their meetings.

In MELAKA, over 95 per cent of the 411 UMNO branches in the state had completed their respective delegates' meetings at 3pm Sunday.

State UMNO Liaison Committee executive secretary Datuk Akbar Ali said the branches which could not hold their meetings due to lack of quorum or technical problems would be referred to UMNO headquarters before further action could be taken, he said.

In KOTA BAHARU, 98 per cent out of the 2,208 UMNO branches in Kelantan had completed their delegates' meetings, according to state UMNO Liaison Committee secretary, Datuk Noor Zahidi Omar.

He said, overall, the meetings, which began on July 15, went very smoothly.

In KOTA KINABALU, Sabah UMNO executive secretary Datuk Kadzim M. Yahya said almost all of the 5,000 UMNO branches in Sabah had also completed their annual delegates' meetings even though some were postponed several times due to technical issues.

Sabah is among the states which registered the highest number of UMNO members at 450,000.

In SEREMBAN, only two out of 617 UMNO branches in Negeri Sembilan had yet to complete their annual delegates' meetings due to membership issues and several protests.

State UMNO Liaison Committee secretary Datuk Hasim Rusdi said the problems faced by these two branches would be decided later by the state UMNO leadership.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, only four out of 1,027 UMNO branches in Terengganu have yet to complete their meetings and are expected to do so by midnight Sunday.

Terengganu UMNO Election Committee chairman Datuk Muda Mamat said only Gong Datuk UMNO branch was prohibited from holding its meeting this year due to certain problem.

In KUANTAN, 90 per cent of the 1,097 UMNO branches in Pahang had completed their meetings Sunday.

Pahang UMNO Liaison Committee secretary Datuk Rahim Abas said the remaining branches were expected to complete their meetings later Sunday.

In KANGAR, almost all out over 300 UMNO branches in Perlis had also convened their annual delegates' meetings.

However, Perlis UMNO Liaison Committee secretary Datuk Mat Rawi Kassim said some of the remaining branches had to reschedule their meetings after having some issues that prohibited them to hold their meetings earlier.

In ALOR SETAR, Kedah UMNO Liaison Committee secretary Datuk Othman Aziz said the branches that failed to hold their annual delegates' meetings would be referred to the state UMNO special meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

"So far, 99 per cent of the state UMNO branches had completed their meetings without a glitch, but the remaining one per cent of the branches were having some problems," he

said.

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