

**Shahrizat, Khairy Retain Posts, Mas Ermieyati New Puteri Chief**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar retained their posts as the heads of Wanita Umno and Umno respectively in the polls for Umno's three wings which took place Saturday.

They were announced as the victors by Umno's elections committee chairman Tan Sri Tajol Rosli Ghazali at the Putra World Trade Centre here at 3.30am Sunday.

He also announced that Mas Ermieyati Samsudin had been elected as the new head of Puteri Umno.

When the announcements were made, Shahrizat had won 100 votes, Khairy 97 votes and Mas Ermieyati 96 votes, from the 191 divisions of the respective wings.

Shahrizat had been challenged by Datuk Maznah Mazlan and Raihan Suleiman Palestin while Khairy was involved in a five-cornered fight.

Khairy was challenged by Syed Rosli Syed Harman, Akhramsyah Muammar Ubaidah Sanusi, Irwan Ambak Khalid Izhar and Abd Karim Ali.

Mas Ermieyati had defeated Jamilah Hanim Othman in a straight fight.

However, the votes obtained by the losing candidates, as at 3.30am, was not announced.

Meanwhile, Umno executive secretary Datuk Ab Rauf Yusoh said the official results would be announced through a press release later Sunday.

"About 50 divisions have yet to complete vote tallying due various reasons, among them requests for recounts and technical problems," he said.

Shahrizat in commenting on her victory at PWTC, said: "I am blessed that in time of crisis, the Wanita movement still stands by me...and a leader is always judged on how she handles a crisis,"

Thanking the grassroots for their continued faith in her, she said for the first time they got to make their voice heard loud and clear as 110,765 delegates decided on the polls outcome.

Khairy, meanwhile, said his win was proof that the progressive and liberal agenda he espoused had the support of the grassroots.

"I view the election this time as a contest between progressive thinkers in our party and my challengers who unfortunately banked on regressive thinking and taking Umno backwards," he said.

By right, he explained, the progressive agenda should begin with the youths as the future of the party depended on them.

Mas Ermieyati, a lawyer who is also the Member of Parliament for Masjid Tanah, said her

main focus would forging greater solidarity in the wing now that the polls were over.

"In an election, there will obviously be contests. Friends can become enemies. I want greater solidarity and less friction in the wing," she told reporters at the PWTC.

She added that her victory also brought along new challenges the biggest of which would be to attract more youths to join Umno.

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