

**Shahrizat, Khairy's Wins Recognition Of Their Leadership**  
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**By Mohd Yusof Saari**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- The victories of Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar as Wanita UMNO chief and UMNO Youth chief, respectively, signify strong grassroots support for their resilience and the aggressive quality of their leadership.

Their wins, proving true the speculation that it would be difficult to unseat them, confirms that the 180,765 delegates recognise Shahrizat's perseverance in handling crises as well as support the progressive and liberal agenda espoused by Khairy.

With Mas Ermieyati Samsudin getting elected as the new Puteri UMNO chief, the trio make the perfect combination to drive UMNO to a higher level through their effort to garner support in the community.

Political observers see the outcome of the elections of the three UMNO wings as signalling the grassroots' desire to maintain stability in administration, planning and transformation, especially in winning the support of the target groups.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Social Science and Humanities Faculty lecturer Assoc Prof Datuk Dr Samsul Adabi Mamat said Khairy's leadership style was clearly accepted as necessary in making UMNO Youth more progressive, and this was expected to have a favourable impact on UMNO as a whole.

He said the Wanita wing still needed Shahrizat, known for her friendly, caring and motherly demeanour, to champion women's issues.

"I see that Shahrizat has been retained because of her role in the party, which only members know about, of being able to unite all members.

"Despite being linked to issues such as the NFC (National Feedlot Corporation), it is only the perception of the opposition which wants her to be seen in a negative light," he said when contacted by Bernama.

This election saw Shahrizat defeat Datuk Maznah Mazlan and Raihan Suleiman, while Khairy won a five-cornered fight against Syed Rosli Syed Harman, Akhramsyah Muammar Ubaidah Sanusi, Irwan Ambak Khalid Izhar and Abd Karim Ali. Mas Ermieyati had defeated Jamilah Hanim Othman.

Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Dungun senior lecturer in political science Che Hamdan Che Mohd Razali said the solid votes received by Shahrizat and Khairy also proved that both met the aspirations of the grassroots.

He said level of leadership of the two wing chiefs was far different from that of their challengers, who were unable to put up stiff competition but even failed to secure the support of the grassroots members.

"We cannot look at this election to determine how the wings prepare for the next general

election because by the time a general election is held in five years, UMNO will have to go through another party election.

"What's important is that the wings must focus on carrying out the transformation desired by party president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak," he said.

On the possibility of the outcome of the wings' elections having an influence on the results of the Supreme Council elections next Saturday, Che Hamdan said anything could happen.

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