

**Khairy and Shahrizat retain posts in Umno polls, Mas Ermieyati new Puteri chief**  
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Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin (pic) and his Wanita counterpart Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil will continue to lead their respective wings after being returned to their post with convincing majorities while Masjid Tanah MP Mas Ermieyati Samsudin is set to be installed as the new Puteri Umno chief.

Up to 1am, Khairy had already picked up 125 votes from the 191 Umno divisions while all four of his challengers had yet to get a single vote.

The four are Bendang Baru Umno Youth chief Akhramsyah Sanusi, Pusat Bandar Taman Chempaka Umno Youth assistant secretary Syed Rosli Syed Harman Jamallulail, former Merbok Umno Youth chief Abd Karim Ali and Bukit Setiawangsa Umno Youth chief Irwan Ambak Khalid Izhar.

Khairy Jamaluddin hoped his victory will not sprout differing "camps" from within.

He said that the amendments made to the Umno constitution has opened up opportunities for newcomers to try their luck while allowing himself, the incumbent, a chance to assess his strength in the wing.

"This election is a progressive one," he declared.

"There were even campaigning opportunities, and it was very interesting but I hope there will not be big divisions within the wing," he told reporters ahead of the official declaration.

On the official vote count, Shahrizat had secured 93 votes from the total 191 division as at 1am. Her closest rival Datuk Maznah Mazlan had secured only four votes.

The only other challenger Raihan Sulaiman in the Wanita Umno race has yet to receive any votes.

Shahrizat described her win as a victory for all women in Malaysia

"To all the women of Malaysia, think of me as the beacon of hope.

"I have had a tough time in the last two years, having to go through many gruelling ordeals. So I want women out there who are having a difficult time to know that life is not hopeless and you can still emerge from all your troubles."

"If you feel life is hopeless, think of Kak Ijat," Shahrizat said referring to the constant call for her to leave, following her family's involvement in the controversial National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) cattle farming saga.

Meanwhile, Mas Ermieyati Samsudin is set to be the Puteri Umno chief judging by the voting trend.

She has 94 votes in the official vote count, as at 1am, compared with her closest contender,

PJ Selatan Puteri head Jamilah Hanim Othman, who is trailing with 26 votes.

Today's polls for the three wings were the first since Umno introduced changes to the way it picked its leadership in 2009.

Unlike previous elections where a selected number of delegates voted at the assembly, the voting today saw more grassroots members voting for its leadership.

Next Saturday about 146,000 delegates from 191 divisions nationwide will cast their votes to select the party's vice-presidents and supreme council members.

Party president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his deputy, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin were returned to their post unopposed. - October 12, 2013.

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Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/khairy-retains-post-shahrizat-on-the-verge-of-victory>