

# Mix of veterans, fresh faces in Umno line-up

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(From left) Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor taking their oath before the Umno supreme council meeting at the PWTC in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Chairing the Umno supreme council meeting for the first time as party president, Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday announced the appointment of a mix of fresh faces and veterans as office bearers, supreme council members and state liaison chiefs.

They include some leaders who lost in the party elections last month.

Party secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor has been reappointed to the post while Second Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah is the new treasurer replacing Datuk Azim Mohd Zabidi.

The new information head is Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Ahmad Maslan, who succeeds Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

Speaking at a press conference after a four-hour meeting yesterday, Najib also announced the appointment of 12 supreme council members

in addition to the 25 elected during the party polls.

The appointees include former Wanita head Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and former Perlis menteri besar Datuk Shahidan Kassim.

Rafidah had failed in her bid to defend the Wanita Umno head post during last month's party polls, Rais lost in his bid for a vice-president's post while Shahidan and Ghani failed to retain their supreme council seats.

Ali, a former vice-president, was barred from contesting the deputy presidency by the party's disciplinary board for money politics.

Najib, who is the prime minister, also appointed a representative each from the three movements — Datuk Kamalia Ibrahim (Wanita Umno), Datuk Razali Ibrahim (Umno Youth) and Dr Wan Norashikin Wan Nordin (Puteri Umno) to

the supreme council.

Among the notable faces who lost in the party elections and were not appointed to the supreme council include Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo and Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan.

In the line-up of the state liaison committee chairmen, Najib is now in charge of Selangor while his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin looks after the Federal Territories.

The three vice-presidents have been assigned a state each — Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal (Kedah), Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (Penang) and Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein (Terengganu).

The incumbent state chiefs who have not been reappointed include Muhammad (Selangor), Shahidan (Perlis), Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid (Kedah) and Datuk Ahmad Said (Terengganu).

Najib said Rafidah and

Shahidan were appointed as supreme council members as they were experienced Umno veterans who could contribute to the party.

"This is also a sign of continuity as we want a mixture of veterans and new faces," said Najib at the party headquarters at Putra World Trade Centre.

Asked on the appointment of the vice-presidents as state liaison committee chairmen, Najib said: "If they can be party vice-presidents, I am confident that they can also deliver their best in managing the states.

"We have appointed them to the posts as there is necessity for it."

Najib also said that menteris besar not appointed as supreme council members would be invited to attend meetings as observers.

He also said that he would now head the party's political bureau and Muhyiddin the management committee and education bureau.

Najib said the appointments of the other bureau chairmen would be announced at the next supreme council meeting.