

UM polls final results on hold over two seats

PETALING JAYA: The final results of Universiti Malaya's (UM) campus polls has yet to be decided following a draw in the number of votes between the candidates for two seats.

UM deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs) Prof Datuk Dr Rohana Yusof said a new election would be held for these two seats.

"The date has not been fixed yet as we are still discussing the matter," she said here yesterday.

Of the 43 seats contested in the UM's campus elections on Tuesday, two seats were tied with equal number of votes going to each candidate.

The anti-establishment group, Pro-Mahasiswa, had initially claimed victory in UM with 22 seats while its rival, the Penggerak Mahasiswa – which is in the pro-government Pro-Aspirasi camp – garnered 19 seats.

However, it was later learnt that Pro-Mahasiswa only had 20 seats instead of 22 because two candidates declared themselves as independent.

Campus polls in all 20 public universities were held on either

Sept 20 or 25, with the Pro-Aspirasi group declaring victory in 17 varsities and garnering 543 out of the 620 seats contested.

Although most universities only allow students to run for polls as individuals, the two main unofficial groups have vied for votes each year.

Meanwhile, in Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), despite claims by the Pro-Aspirasi group that it had won 40 seats while Pro-Mahasiswa only took seven, student leaders said the votes were actually split among three different groups and various independents.

UPM's Siswa Penggerak Universiti chairman Muhammad Ariff Baba alleged that these groups – the so-called "pro-university side" – had 39 seats.

Official results of UPM's campus polls will only be released on Oct 1.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin advised winners of the campus elections to carry out their duties and fulfil the needs of the students who had cast their ballots for them.