Big wins in four varsities

CAMPUS ELECTIONS: Almost a clean sweep by Pro-Aspirasi

KUALA LUMPUR

STAKES were high in yesterday's campus elections where at press time, establishment-friendly Pro-Aspirasi groups won with huge margins over Pro-Mahasiswa groups in four universities.

The universities are Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).

Pro-Aspirasi, widely held to be pro-government, and Pro-Mahasiswa, seen as anti-establishment, contested 454 seats in 15 public universities nationwide.

As of 9.30pm, Pro-Aspirasi had already secured 108 seats in the four universities, while Pro-Mahasiswa won 13 seats.

At Universiti Malaya, where all 43 seats were contested, conflicting reports have emerged as to which group won.

Pro-Aspirasi surpassed its achievement of 18 seats in last year's student elections by securing 19 seats this year, while the Pro-Mahasiswa group, led by a small margin with 20 seats. Two seats were won by independent candidates.

However, of the 43 seats contested this year, two seats were tied and will be up for re-election later.

The independent candidates will also have the option to join either the

'Pro-Aspirasi giving a tough fight'

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Pro-Aspirasi or Pro-Mahasiswa groups and hold the power to determine the final outcome of the election.

The uncertainties of the four seats have both sides in a flutter.

UM vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dr Ghauth Jasmon said the election atmosphere this year was very orderly compared with several years ago.

"When I first joined UM, there were scuffles and students were physical in voicing their dissatisfaction. This year, the students show great ethics and are very disciplined during campaigning," he said yesterday.

Checks by the *New Straits Times* revealed that campaigning had proceeded smoothly and students cast their ballots according to regulations.

UM Education Faculty representative, final-year student Malik Sham, said this was the first time in universities' election history that the Pro-Aspirasi group was giving the Pro-Mahasiswa group a tough fight.

At UPSI, Pro-Aspirasi candidates won 25 of the 29 seats, while at UUM, the Pro-Aspirasi group had a landslide victory securing 35 of the 36 seats.

At UMS, the Pro-Aspirasi won eight of the 10 seats and in UPM, Pro-Aspirasi won 40 of 47 seats.