

07 OCT 1996

NOW ONLY 55 CANDIDATES FOR SUPREME COUNCIL SEATS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- The number of candidates contesting the 25 seats in the Umno supreme council is now reduced to 55, after six were disqualified for money politics, abuse of positions and breach of the no-campaign order.

For the 15 Umno Youth exco posts, the disqualification of Ayub Mat Aris of Selangor has reduced the number of candidates to 61.

This was in addition to the 16 delegates who were earlier disqualified from attending the party general assembly from Oct 9 to 12, reducing the number of delegates from 1,884 to 1,868.

There is a strong possibility that the number of candidates will be further reduced for, according to Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the list of candidates is yet to be finalised.

"We are still receiving reports and continuing with our investigations until the last minute. If it is necessary, the Umno special committee under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will meet again tomorrow," he told a news conference at his office here today.

Earlier, 13 delegates to the assembly lost their status as they were found to be bankrupt, while two others could not attend the Youth convention which will be held along with the Wanita meeting on Wednesday, for the same reason.

A candidate for the Youth leader post had also been disqualified, for being a civil servant in the management and professional group. -- BERNAMA  
AH/HS AR JK