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118 NOMINEES, BUT ONLY 50 QUALIFY IN BID FOR YOUTH EXCO SEATS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 15 (Bernama) -- Of the 118 candidates nominated by 84 divisions so far to contest for one of 20 Umno Youth executive council seats, only 50 are eligible, says the wing's head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

A candidate has to win five per cent of the votes (or nominations from 10 out of 191 divisions) to qualify.

Datuk Mukhriz Tun Mahathir collected 64 votes, the highest, Hishamuddin told reporters after chairing a special Umno Youth executive council meeting.

Mukhriz, who last week failed in his bid for the Kubang Pasu Youth head post, is also standing for the wing's vice head post, for which he has already won six nominations.

Other popular executive council nominees included Shamsul Najmi Shamsuddin (63 votes), Harison Hassan (60) and Reezal Merican Naina Merican (59), while Datuk Pirdaus Ismail, the Barisan Nasional candidate for Permatang Pauh in the last general election, obtained 46 nominations.

Hishammuddin said the Youth executive council today nominated councillor Datuk Saziman Mansor to contest for a Supreme Council seat in the party's general assembly in September.

Last week, the wing chose another executive council member, Datuk Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo, who is also Selangor Umno liaison chairman, as its candidate for the same post.

Hishammuddin said the nomination process for the executive council posts was relatively smooth.

-- BERNAMA

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