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Youth-Khairy

KHAIRY READY TO FACE CHALLENGE FOR UMNO YOUTH VICE-CHIEF POST

SEREMBAN, July 10 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth Executive Council member Khairy Jamaluddin said today he is ready to face any challenge in a contest for the movement's vice-chief post at the party polls in September.

He said Umno Youth had always practised democracy in electing their leaders and would never prevent leaders or members of the movement from contesting for any post.

"I'm prepared for a contest. I welcome the challenge from any candidate who is offering himself," he said at a media conference here today to announce his readiness to accept the nomination for the Umno Youth vice-chief post in the coming party election.

"I'm not asking any candidate to withdraw or give way. In a democratic process, I feel that it is good to have a contest as it will be where the Youth divisions can nominate and the delegates can elect the person of their choice," he said on the prospect of him being challenge for the post.

The Umno Youth vice-chief seat was vacated by Datuk Abdul Aziz Syeikh Fadzir on age factor.

Until this morning, Khairy, 28, son-in-law of the Prime Minister, had received 30 nominations to contest for the post while Datuk Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir and Datuk Azimi Daim had received one nomination each.

Mukhriz, son of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, received the nomination from the Kubang Pasu Youth division while Azimi received the nomination from the Gua Musang Youth division.

Azimi had previously announced that he would not offer himself for the seat as he wanted to concentrate as a state assemblyman and an Executive Councillor in the Kedah Government.

Mukhriz had also said he was not ready for the post of Umno Youth Vice head.

Khairy said each Umno division had the right to nominate anyone of its choice.

"I respect the decision of the divisions and I welcome anyone to offer himself and let the members determine their leader," he said.

When asked on whether he being the son-in-law of the Prime Minister would enable him to cruise through the election, Khairy said if one were to look at the slander and criticisms thrown at him, the path for him to contest for the post was not that easy.

"I believe no other leaders, politicians or Youth members had to endure that much of criticism and slander as my ownself," he said.

Khairy said he decided to contest for the Umno Youth vice-head just a week ago after looking at the strong support at the grassroot level and among friends in the movement.

"The decision to accept the nominations for the Umno Youth vice-chief post was made after considering various factors and so as not to disappoint my colleagues and others in the grassroots and Umno Youth members nationwide," he said.

Last night, Khairy, 28, won unopposed the post of youth head of the Rembau Umno division, replacing former Rantau state assemblyman, Ab Ghani Hasan, who vacated the seat on age factor.

-- BERNAMA  
APG MOZ JR