

09/07/2004

Mukhriz ahead in Kubang Pasu

ALOR STAR, Thurs. - He may be a newcomer to politics but Mukhriz Mahathir is certainly holding his own in the contest to be the Umno Youth head for Kubang Pasu.

He has obtained 42 nominations, eight more than the more seasoned political campaigner, Zulkifli @ Md Ros Ahmad.

One of the nominations came from the branch of Datuk Johari Baharom, the pro-tem division chief who was returned unopposed.

And rank-and-file members say that they are not surprised at the number of nominations the third son of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad received.

He has been burning the midnight oil for weeks now and has been willing to sit for hours to convince fence-sitters that he is a worthy candidate. Some party members have been surprised at his down-to-earth demeanour.

Mukhriz was modest about his chances and acknowledged that his rival had served the division well.

"Its an open contest. I am not asking people to make way or give me a place in Kubang Pasu by virtue of being the son of a former Prime Minister."

The 40-year old president of the former Mara Junior Science College students waited for his father to retire before entering politics.

(END)