

**My Political Journey Is Not As Smooth As Claimed - Mukhriz
Bernama
21 Sept, 2013**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir, who is offering to contest for the Umno vice-presidency, said his political journey was actually not as smooth as claimed by certain quarters. Admitting that the "aura" of being former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's son often earned him cynical remarks, Mukhriz described himself as a fighter who is prepared to take risks to remain in the country's mainstream politics. "I have never taken the easy way out in politics, am always offering to contest either at the branch, division or central level. "In fact, as everybody is aware, sometimes I win, and more often I lost. My political journey is not so smooth as if the passage is open wide to facilitate this nomination," he told reporters after submitting his nomination form at the Putra World Trade Centre here Saturday. Besides Mukhriz, former Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Ali Rustam and former Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad also submitted their nomination forms for the three vice-presidency posts.

The incumbent vice-presidents are Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal. On what prompted him to contest for the post, Mukhriz, who was appointed Kedah Menteri Besar after Barisan Nasional (BN) won the state from the opposition in the last general election, said it was his experience. "Although my service at the state level is still new, I have quite a vast experience at the federal level being a deputy international trade and industry minister since 2009," he added. He believed that his experience at the state could be shared by leaders at the national level, especially in addressing issues on poverty, housing and unemployment. As the sole candidate among the Menteri Besars and Chief Ministers to contest for the party's leadership posts, Mukhriz said he had consulted some of his colleagues and they welcome and supported his decision. "I understand the pressure, especially when you are said to be the favourite candidate of giving competition to the three incumbents, not only by the young people, but also from those looking for transformation in Umno," he added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=979546>