

HAWKER TO FIGHT FOR CHOY'S SEAT

PENANG, Mon. — The Pengkalan Kota by-election on Nov 15 is expected to be a fight involving at least six independents and three political parties.

Two independents have already declared their stand. They are Mr Khoo Huat Hin and hawker Loke Chang Kee.

The others are businessman Lee Chee Liang, salesman Lim Ewe Chin, cloth merchant Lee Teik Hooi, and lawyer R. Rajasingam.

The by-election is being held following the death of the independent State Assemblyman Mr C.Y. Choy.

Mr Loke Chang Kee, 77, believed to be the oldest candidate, said he was still "fit" to serve the people.

He has started his on-mn campaigning on a

bicycle, calling from house to house.

Mr Lee Chee Liang, a former Gerakan member has discreetly started his campaign to woo voters.

Supporters of Mr Lim Ewe Chin, chairman of Noordin Street Ghaut Flats Residents Association, have gone from house to house to solicit support.

The other likely independent candidates too have begun their hunt for votes.

Sources said independent candidates have a fair chance to beat their rivals from the Barisan Nasional, DAP and the SDP.

The SDP has not publicly announced its intention to field a candidate. But it is understood the party's secretary-general, Mr

Yeap Ghim Guan, may stand.

State MCA chief Mr Lim Kean Siew is strongly tipped to carry the Barisan's flag. His DAP counterpart is likely to be Mr Teoh Teik Huat, a company executive.

Sources also said Mr Lim Ewe Chin has a "slightly better chance" than the other independent candidates, because of his close contact with supporters of the late Mr C.Y. Choy.

"But this edge may be eroded by the presence of Mr Lee Chee Liang," they added.

Mr Lee is said to have substantial support from Noordin Street Ghaut Flats where there are about 2,000 voters.

