

RAKYAT TO OPPOSE ALLIANCE

ELECTION

IPOH, Sat.

PARTY RAKYAT has named a candidate to contest the Sungei Perak Ulu constituency by-election for a seat on the Federal Legislative Council.

He is Inche Mohamed Shariffbin Babol, 39, a proprietary padi planter, and an executive committee member and publicity officer of the party's Perak branch.

The Alliance will also contest the by-election. Inche Mohamed Ghazali bin Haji Jawi (UMNO), who was elected by this constituency in 1955, has vacated his seat.

Automatic seat

He was appointed Mentri Besar of Perak on Aug. 1, and is entitled to a seat on the Federal Council.

Inche Ibrahim bin Haji Karim, chairman of Party Rakyat's election committee, told the Sunday Times today, "This is the first time, since our formation in 1956, that we are contesting an election.

"Any legislative council or parliament which is controlled by only one party, without an opposition, will result in an autocracy, and such a government will not be stable.

"We are confident that the people are now conscious of this."

Inche Ibrahim said that if the party's candidate was returned, "he will not warm his seat on the Federal Council, but make every effort to muster a united opposition to the Alliance.

People aware

"We feel that a strong opposition is necessary to serve as a deterrent to the extravagance and ill-advised policies of the Alliance, which are now becoming increasingly unpopular with the people."

He said that Party Rakyat was founded on socialist principles and was non-communal.

The Alliance have not yet named their candidate for the polls but it will be either Inche Mohamed Said bin Haji Abu Bakar, publicity officer of the Perak UMNO, or Haji Meor Shamsuddin bin Haji Meor Yahaya, former secretary of the Perak UMNO liaison committee.