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BN to name its choice on Friday

KULIM, Tues. - The Barisan Nasional candidate for the Lunas by-election will be announced on Friday.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said he was scheduled to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday to discuss the matter.

"We have identified the man, but I'll only announce his name on Friday ... all I can say now is he's from the MIC.

"He is the most suitable person to fulfil the needs of Lunas constituents."

Syed Razak, who is also State BN chairman, said he was confident the people in Lunas would continue to back the party based on its good track record.

Asked if the presence of new voters in the constituency would pose a problem to BN, Syed Razak said: "Why should it be? We are confident of getting their support too."

On voting being held in the Puasa month, Syed Razak said it would not be a problem.

He expressed confidence the people would fulfil their responsibility and cast their votes.

The Election Commission has fixed Nov 21 for nominations and Nov 29 for polling.

The Lunas State seat, held by the MIC since 1990, fell vacant after its Assemblyman Dr Joe Fernandez was brutally killed by two unidentified men on Nov 4.

In the last general election, Dr Fernandez retained the seat with a 4,700 majority, beating M. Kathiravelo of DAP who polled 5,060 votes, and Independents Ibrahim Md Rashidi (2,158 votes) and N. Letchumanan (87 votes).

Meanwhile, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the party was not facing any problem in convincing its members to accept the chosen candidate.

He said all branch and division leaders and party members have agreed to support whoever is fielded.

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