

14 NOV 2000
BN-Candidate
BN TO NAME LUNAS CANDIDATE ON FRIDAY

KULIM, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said today that the Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate for the Lunas state by-election will be named on Friday.

"I will meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Nov 16. The following day, I will announce the name of the candidate," he told reporters at the BN operations room in Lunas, near here.

A BN meeting would be held here on Friday, and the name of the candidate from MIC would be announced after that, he said.

The Election Commission (EC) today announced that nomination day for the Lunas by-election is Nov 21 and, in the event of a contest, polling is on Nov 29.

In a statement, EC Deputy Chairman Datuk Abdullah Zawawi Mohamed also said the electoral roll gazetted yesterday would be used for the by-election. It contains 26,746 registered voters, including 29 postal voters, and this number is an increase of 565 voters over that in the 1999 electoral roll.

The Lunas seat in Kedah fell vacant when its assemblyman Dr Joe Fernandez was shot dead in Bukit Mertajam, Penang, on Nov 4.

Asked whether the holding of the by-election in the fasting month would affect voter turnout among Muslims, Syed Razak said this question did not arise.

"This is the responsibility of all voters. I urge all Malays to come out and vote although it (polling) falls in the fasting month," said Syed Razak who is Kedah BN chairman.

He also announced that more than 40 projects costing RM4 million had been approved in principle for implementation in several villages in Lunas.

"The projects include upgrading of roads, surau, halls and mosques. We will implement them fast," he said.

He said development was a continuous effort, and it was sheer coincidence that the announcement of projects was made during election time.

In ALOR SETAR, a spokesman of the EC office in Kedah said the by-election would not disrupt the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination because the 12 schools identified as polling centres were all primary schools.

"The EC had considered the examination factor when fixing the polling date," he told Bernama.

The SPM examination began yesterday and will end on Dec 4.

He said the Kulim District Office will be used as the nomination centre. There are 19 polling districts in Lunas.

He said 224 EC workers would be involved in the by-election.

-- BERNAMA

MNH JM YBY