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Dr Mahathir: MIC man will contest

GURUN, Thurs. - The Barisan Nasional candidate for the Lunas by-election will be from the MIC, BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad confirmed today.

"It will be given to MIC, unless they do not have a candidate," he said when asked whether the party would be given the seat.

He was speaking to reporters after opening a seminar on smart partnership for the development of Kedah, here.

The Lunas State seat, held by the MIC since 1990, fell vacant following the death of Dr Joe Fernandez on Nov 4.

State BN chairman Datuk Seri Syed Razak had earlier said that despite Lunas being a traditional MIC seat, there was no guarantee the BN candidate would be from the party this time around.

Dr Mahathir said he would be meeting MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu to discuss the candidacy.

Meanwhile, the DAP has identified three candidates, including a doctor. The other two shortlisted are M. Kathiravelo who contested on the Opposition ticket in Lunas and lost, and S. Neelamekan who lost to Datuk Dr K. Rajapathy for the Prai State seat.

In the last general election, Kathiravelo polled 5,060 votes to Dr Fernandez's 9,760 votes. Two independent candidates, Ibrahim Md Rashidi collected 2,158 votes and N. Letchumanan secured 87 votes.

The DAP has appointed its deputy secretary-general M. Kualasegaran as the election director to co-ordinate the campaign.

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