

Opposition parties nervous, says

Muhammad

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KUALA LUMPUR: The opposition parties are pressing the panic button when they announce their candidates ahead of nomination day for the Gaya by-election, said Barisan Nasional by-election committee head, Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

"This has not been the opposition practice. They will hold back the names of their candidates until at least 24 hours before nomination day."

He said Barisan would not rush into naming its candidate.

"There is no hurry. We would want a complete study of how to defend the Gaya seat."

Muhammad said the candidate's identity would be made known when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad returns from overseas. The Barisan chairman is due home today.

"We will let him announce the candidate."

On Thursday, Parti Keadilan Nasional picked lawyer Christina Liew as its candidate. She is the party's treasurer.

The next day, DAP released the name of its contender, Dr Hiew King Cheu.

The Barisan candidate who is likely to be considered is Sabah Progressive Party vice-president Liew Teck Chuan.