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Ex-school head is Barisan candidate

Sharanjit Singh; Alina Simon

KANGAR, Sat. - Retired Chinese school headmistress Oui Ah Lan @ Ng Ah Lan, 58, has been named the Barisan Nasional candidate for the Jan 19 Indera Kayangan state by-election.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim announced her candidacy at Dewan Residensi at 12.20pm today.

Oui, who is the Perlis Wanita chairman, was the favourite to contest the seat. There were three other candidates shortlisted by the MCA.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, who was present at Dewan Residensi, said the BN had chosen the "perfect candidate", crediting Oui's long experience as a MCA leader.

He said her reputation as a disciplinarian was an encouraging sign of her ability to serve the people.

Present were MCA vice-president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, Wanita MCA chief Datuk Seri Dr Ng Yen Yen, MCA central committee members Datuk Chor Chee Heung and Datuk Hon Choon Kim, Perlis BN Wanita chief Mastika Junaidah Husin and other BN component party leaders.

Shahidan said BN would go all out to ensure victory.

He said everyone had closed ranks, especially those tipped to contest.

The other three shortlisted candidates were Kangar MCA division deputy chief Steven Lee, State MCA secretary Tan Kok Kheng and Kangar division committee member Chn'g Ban San.

All three later joined other leaders to congratulate and pose for photographs with her.

On BN's chances, Shahidan said he was confident it would continue to enjoy the people's support.

"The people have given us extraordinary support of late ... even long-time opposition members are applying to join us.

"I'm confident the people will again support the BN candidate and we are ready to face anyone contesting against her."

Shahidan said the BN had a proven track record while the Opposition could only talk about issues.

He added there were no real issues for the Opposition to exploit this time around and they could only hope to pick on petty and irrelevant issues.

On the BN machinery to face the by-election, Shahidan said the leadership would be involved in the campaign.

Shahidan said he would head the overall machinery for the campaign while Dr Ling and Datuk Seri Dr Samy Vellu would head their respective party machinery.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were expected to make a campaign stop-over before polling day.

The Indera Kayangan seat fell vacant following the death of assemblyman Datuk Khor Liang Tee on Dec 19 last year.

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