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SAPP most likely to contest Gaya

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Going by past by-elections and Barisan Nasional tradition, the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) will likely contest the Gaya parliamentary seat in the impending by-election.

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said the practice of giving the seat to the party which held it, was evident in the Lunas, Indera Kayangan, Ketari, Anak Bukit state by-elections and the Pendang and Sanggang parliamentary by-elections.

"Unless adjustments are made to suit special circumstances, that has been the practice. However the final decision on who and which party will contest the seat will ultimately be made by BN president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad."

Muhammad said a party's seat representation would usually change during a general election but not during a by-election. In the former, the seats a party would get would change but the number of seats it represented would remain.

"In a general election, we may take from one place but we will add elsewhere. So even though the seats change, the status quo remains. All the parties would get the same number of seats they are entitled to.

"In a by-election, we give the seat back to the party so that it does not lose seats and so that it will not feel that its rights had been taken away," said Muhammad, who is BN by-election co-ordinator.