

It's SUPP's Robert Lau vs DAP's Wong Ho Leng
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Lawyer Robert Lau Hui Yew (below), 45, is Barisan Nasional's candidate to defend the Sibu parliamentary seat in the by-election next month.

NONEThe choice of the Sarawak United Peoples' Party (SUPP) Sibu branch assistant treasurer was announced by Sarawak Chief Minister Abdul Taib Mahmud in Kuching today.

"The prime minister is impressed with him," he told a packed news conference on arrival from Kuala Lumpur at the Kuching International Airport.

Abdul Taib said the prime minister had agreed to Lau's candidacy as he fitted the BN's brand new image.

"I must congratulate the SUPP for choosing the best candidate," he said.

Present was Deputy Chief Minister Dr George Chan Hong Nam who is SUPP president.

Chan is confident that the people would support the BN and the party, which he said had reinvented itself.

"We picked Lau because we want to give the opportunity to a young and energetic leader in our party to serve the people; it's a new beginning for the party," he said.

azlanChan said Lau's approachable attitude would be his winning trait.

Lau, 45, fondly known as Robert Lau Junior, is the second cousin of the late five-term Sibu MP Datuk Robert Lau Hoi Chew who died on April 9 after a long battle with liver cancer.

He has been the favourite for the seat owing to his active participation in party work as well as his friendly approach.

His father, Lau Swee Nguong, is the chairman of KTS Group which deals in timber, log exports, plywood manufacturing, oil palm plantations and shipping.

In the 2008 general election, Robert Lau retained the largely urban seat with a 3,549-vote majority, beating Sarawak DAP chairman Wong Ho Leng and PKR's Lim Chin Chuang in a three-cornered fight.

The nomination is on May 8 while polling is on May 16 in the event of a contest.

The master electoral roll, updated until April 9 this year, will be used for the by-election.

Sibu has 54,679 voters comprising 52,158 ordinary voters and 2,537 postal voters made up of 1,910 military and 627 police personnel.

Forty-five polling stations with 110 streams will be opened at 39 schools, two kindergartens and one each at a training centre, longhouse, public library and public recreational centre.

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Wong is DAP/Pakatan choice

sibu by election dap candidate wong ho leng latest DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng announced tonight that the DAP Sarawak chairman and state assemblyman for Bukit Assek, Wong Ho Leng (right), will be the DAP/Pakatan Rakyat candidate for the upcoming Sibul by-election.

Guan Eng made the announcement at a fund raising dinner that in Sibul.

It was attended by DAP leaders including its parliamentary leader, Lim Kit Siang, national vice chairman and MP for Cheras Tan Kok Wai, national treasurer and MP for Bukit Bintang Fong Kui Lun, national vice chairman and MP for Bandar Kuching Chong Chieng Jen, MP for Jelutong Jeff Ooi, assistant national organising secretary Vincent Wu, and Sarawak DAP deputy chairman and state assemblyman for Kidurong, Chiew Chin Sing.

Pakatan component parties were represented by PAS' secretary general, Mustafa Ali, PKR Sarawak deputy chairman, Zainal Abidin (who was representing his National President Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Was Ismail who missed her flight earlier in the day) and Johnny Wong of SNAP.

Over 2,000 guests, including significant number of Iban community leaders, attended the dinner.

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