

Pakatan to name Galas candidate tonight
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Pakatan Rakyat will announce who it will field for the Galas by-election tonight during a meet-the-people session in Gua Musang, Kelantan.

Malaysiakini understands the announcement will be preceded by speeches by PAS spiritual leader Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, PKR *de facto* leader Anwar Ibrahim and DAP supremo Lim Kit Siang.

The event, which will kick off at 9pm, is scheduled to be held at the Dataran Ilmu, next to the Faiz Mosque in Gua Musang town.

While the individual to be named is still unknown, the candidate will be from PAS, which has decided to determine the candidacy by vote.

The state assembly seat fell vacant after PAS state assemblyperson Che Hashim Sulaima, who had been battling colon cancer, passed away late last month after a relapse.

BN to announce candidate on Sunday

Hashim won the Galas seat with a majority of 646 votes in the last general election, against incumbent Saufi Deraman of BN.

The state constituency has 10,330 voters consisting of 65.4 percent Malays, 22.3 percent Chinese and 1.8 percent Indians. Most of the remaining 10.5 percent are Orang Asli, who number around 2,000 in Galas.

Galas, one of three state seats under the Gua Musang parliamentary constituency - long held by Umno veteran Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah - and is considered a BN stronghold.

It fell to PAS in the 2008 general elections after Chinese voters in Gua Musang town swung their votes against Umno.

Meanwhile, BN will be announcing its candidate for both the Galas and Batu Sapi by-elections on Sunday.

Razaleigh has agreed to spearhead the BN campaign, but has declined to be the candidate.

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