

**Pakatan banks Batu Sapi hopes on Ansari Abdullah**  
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Hot on the heels of the BN's announcement of its candidate Linda Tsen Thau Lin for the Batu Sapi by-election, Pakatan has unveiled its contender Tuaran division chief Ansari Abdullah (*below*).



The 56-year-old PKR supreme council member and former Berjaya Youth chief is also a practising lawyer who read law at Universiti Malaya.

PKR *de facto* leader Anwar Ibrahim announced Ansari's candidature at the 'Sabah People Rally on the Land Issue' event held at the Sandakan Hakka Association Hall this afternoon.

Among those present were PAS president Hadi Awang, PKR vice-president Azmin Ali, election director Fuziah Salleh and DAP sabah chief Hiew King Cheu.

DAP parliamentarian Lim Kit Siang, who suffered a vertigo attack recently, was absent.

A multi-racial crowd of around 2,000 attended the rally, and chanted "*reformasi*" following the announcement.

Asked whether the opposition's votes would be split between the PKR and the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), that would also be joining the fray, Anwar said told news agency *Bernama* that this would not arise as the SAPP had never regarded itself as an opposition party.

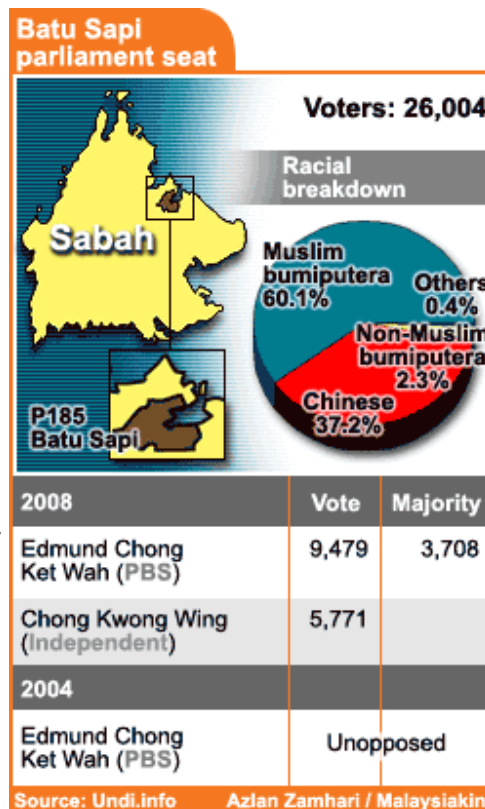
He said as the SAPP was an independent party that could support any side, he split would be among independent parties. Anwar said the opposition was steadfast in its principles and agenda in bringing changes to Sabah.

Meanwhile, Ansari told *Bernama* that although the by-election would be a close fight, the opposition was gaining ground in the constituency since the 12th general election.

Sabah DAP chairman Hiew King Cheu added that the opposition would work hard to turn the table against the BN.

The Batu Sapi by-election was called when Edmund Chong Ket Wah, a two-term parliamentarian from PBS, died in a road accident on Oct 9.

Earlier, Sabah-based opposition party SAPP had announced that its president Yong Teck Lee, who is also former Sabah chief minister, will contest the parliamentary seat.



This afternoon, BN announced Tsen, the widow of the late Batu Sapi MP Chong, as their candidate for the Nov 4 by-election.

This makes the upcoming contest at least a three-cornered one.

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