



**EC tightens electoral rules for Galas and Batu Sapi**  
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The Election Commission (EC) will tighten its operating procedures during the upcoming twin polls in Galas and Batu Sapi.

This, according to the commission's deputy secretary Noordin Che Ngah, is to avoid the fracas between supporters of opposing candidates that had occurred in previous by-elections such as in Permatang Pauh.

One of the measures being implemented, Noordin (*centre*) said, is to triple the distance between the supporters of the opposing candidates, so that a gap of 180m will be maintained by police officers between groups of supporters in front of the nominations centres in both Galas and Batu Sapi.

"The distance of 60m like in previous by-elections won't work. At that distance you can still throw mineral bottles at each other.

"We will increase the distance to 180m and the police will be on duty," he told reporters during a briefing for the media at the official Galas by-election media centre in Gua Musang today.

"I have been to elections in Indonesia and Thailand, where there is nothing like we see in Malaysia. There are policemen there but there is no tension. Even their posters are not as widespread as ours. You can't even tell that a by-election is going on.

"In developed countries like New Zealand you can hardly see the police at all," he said.

He advised all parties contesting not to bring too many supporters to avoid unwanted occurrences, to go to the nomination centre via only the prescribed routes and to follow the instructions of the officials in charge.

He also warned the supporters of candidates against breaching such electoral regulations as those banning '*pondok panas*' and the canvassing for votes.

"We do not want happenings similar to those which occurred in the Hulu Selangor by-election, where candidates alleged they were late because they were held up by the police," said Noordin.

Candidates, their proposers and supporters need to be at the nomination centres at the prescribed times - from 10am to 11am - he said further.

BN supporters were to march from their operations centre in Bukit Cekati while PAS will assemble and start out from the Tengku Muhammad Faiz Petra Mosque. Both groups planned to arrived from opposing directions for better traffic and crowd control.

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