

**War of words over 'recycled candidate' jibe**  
**Malaysiakini.com**  
**October 26, 2010**

An argument over a "recycled candidate" broke out soon after the BN, PKR and SAPP candidates successfully passed the nomination process for the Batu Sapi by-election.

Deputy Prime Minister-cum-BN deputy chairperson Muhyiddin Yassin labelled PKR candidate Ansari Abdullah as a "recycled candidate" who had contested many times but had been rejected by the people.

"Indeed PKR had no candidate and their candidate is not laku any more, but they recycle it. But let the voters make their decision. I won't belittle this candidate.

"No matter who he is, we will face them," he told a press conference after the nomination process at the Sandakan community hall, which serves as the nomination centre.

Ansari (*right*), at another press conference outside the nomination centre, fought back when he was asked about the issue.

"I've never counted how many times I contested. To me, whether I win or not is not for BN or SAPP to decide. It is for God and the people to decide.

"BN can lose five states plus the Federal Territory. There's no reason why they cannot lose Batu Sapi, and they had lost Sibul when the deputy minister who had had won previously with a 3,000 majority was defeated. So the people are stronger than BN."

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Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/146431>