

Voting brisk in Batu Sapi, Galas
Malaysiakini.com
November 04, 2010

Polling: 8am to 5pm
Vote count: 6.30pm onwards
Results: By 9pm

Photo galleries: Batu Sapi | Galas

NONE8am: (Batu Sapi) It's clear skies in Batu Sapi as voters start trickling in at the 12 polling centres under the parliamentary constituency in Sandakan, Sabah.

According to the weather forecast, it is expected to rain in the afternoon.

Rush-hour traffic hits parts of Batu Sapi such as in front of the SMK Agama polling centre in Taman Mawar, as early voters swell the ranks of road users moving about on this bright Thursday morning.

azlanBatu Sapi will see a three-way fight between BN's Linda Tsen Thau Lin, SAPP's Yong Teck Lee and PKR's Ansari Abdullah.

Out of the 12 polling stations, two will close early - one at 3pm, the other at 4pm - due to the small number of voters in those areas. The the rest are to close at 5pm.

Eleven of the polling stations are in schools, while the remaining one is the district library.

There are 25,582 registered voters in Batu Sapi, and about 20,000 are expected to cast their votes today should the turnout be around 80 percent.

Four of the 12 polling stations are Chinese-majority while the rest are Muslim bumiputera-majority.

8.02am: (Galas) The weather is clear in Galas with a slight overcast, with no rain this morning despite the steady downpour last night, though the overcast and streaks of grey in the clouds may spell rain later in the day.

NONEAt the Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Tengku Muhammad Fakhry Petra polling station in the PAS stronghold of Sg Terah, the PAS candidate Dr Zulkefli Mohamad arrives with Kelantan MB Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

Zulkefli is facing BN-Umno candidate Abdul Aziz Yusof in this state seat. While Galas is an Umno stronghold, PAS was able to wrest it in the 2008 general elections and Zulkefli is seeking to ensure that the seat will remain with the Islamic party.

This by-election will make no difference to PAS' control of the state assembly. It captured 38 of the 45 state seats in Kelantan, while ally PKR won one and Umno, six.

NONEThere are 11,553 registered voters, and should the turnout be around 80 percent, a total of 9,000 are expected to vote today.

PAS is banking on a high voters turnout to win this by-election and it hopes for many of the

outstation voters to return to vote today. The PAS-control has declared today a state holiday to ensure a high voters turnout.

There are 13 polling districts in Galas - six are Orang Asli-majority, three Chinese-majority and the rest, Malay-majority areas.

Four Orang Asli-majority polling stations will close earlier due to the remoteness of these areas and their ballot boxes are to be ferried to the main tally centre in Gua Musang town by helicopters.

All the Orang Asli-majority polling stations are to close at 1pm while the voting will end in other polling stations at 5pm.

The three Chinese areas are Bandar Lama, Kg Baru Gua Musang and Pulai. Pulai is considered an MCA stronghold where Pakatan lost by 25 votes in last general elections.

8.15am: (Galas) At SK Gua Musang - one of the polling stations in Kampung Baru Gua Musang, some PAS supporters are seen wearing 'PAS for all' face mask, while UMNO supporters carrying 'PAS Penipu' posters.

(Batu Sapi) In one of the biggest polling station, SMK Agama Sandakan in Taman Mawar, a Chinese-majority area, only a number of voters turn up so far. There is no queue at all.

There is not much excitement here as only about 20 BN campaigners from Puteri Umno and Gerakan are outside the polling station, holding umbrella under the hot sun.

No PKR campaigner could be seen as yet. In addition, gone are the political parties' 'pondok panas' which were a common feature in previous elections. Instead, there are two Election Commission's counter outside the polling station. Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin is expected to visit here soon.

8.25am: PAS candidate Zulkefli spends about 10 minutes walking around the Sg Terah polling station greeting voters, police officers and election staffers.

Zulkefli leaves the polling station - which is considered a PAS stronghold in this Malay-majority area - to the cries of 'takbir' and 'Allahu Akbar' from PAS supporters.

A commotion erupts between police and the supporters of both sides as police and EC officials move to widen the distance between the two groups as per new EC regulations to avoid confrontation. But the shouting match receded after police called a representative from each group to measure the distance.

8.26am: (Batu Sapi) A woman wearing a Briged Muslimat vest kicks up a fuss over EC workers' refusal to allow Pakatan Rakyat party workers access into the cordoned area of the SMK Agama polling centre at Taman Mawar.

She is heard complaining loudly of the EC workers' bias in allowing BN party workers in, but are denying entry to Pakatan party workers.

8.35am: (Galas) PAS supporters greatly outnumber BN's in and around the main road leading to SK Sri Wangi polling station.

There are intermittent shouts of 'penimbang lama' (old scale) from the PAS camp, and these

is met with silence from BN camp.

There is a steady stream of voters coming in and out of the Batu Papan polling station.

Meanwhile, some voters are spotted in wearing 1Malaysia T-shirts in SK Gua Musang and SRJKC Gua Musang.

8.41am: (Galas) In PAS stronghold of Sg Terah polling station, its 400 supporters outnumber the 50-odd BN supporters. The PAS crowd continue to swell and chant slogans, worrying the police, such that a contingent of the LSF (Light Strike Force) put on their riot gear and formed a shield cordon in front the crowd.

NONEThe BN supporters are a bit more subdued, cowed by the huge numbers of PAS supporters. Kelantan Umno chief Mustapha Mohamad was seen mingling with the BN crowd.

(Batu Sapi) SAPP president and Batu Sapi candidate Yong Teck Lee arrives at his first stop of the day at SMK Agama in Chinese-majority Taman Mawar.

Yong, like his rivals Linda Tsen Thau Lin from BN and PKR's Ansari Abdullah, are not registered to vote in Batu Sapi.

8.45am: (Galas) Kelantan Menteri Besar Nik Aziz Nik Mat and candidate Zulkefli spent about 10 minutes in SRJKC visiting the polling station.

Many of the PAS supporters grab the opportunity to take photos with Nik Aziz. Batu MP Tian Chua of PKR arrived about 5 minutes later and greeted Nik Aziz.

NONE8.55am: (Batu Sapi) There is a massive traffic jam along Jalan Batu Sapi, the main road in the constituency due to congestions in front of polling stations and the mini buses deployed by all three contesting parties, which are making stops to drop voters at polling stations. The police are busy directing traffic at key junctions but are unable to ease the situation.

9.06am: (Batu Sapi) BN and Pakatan Rakyat supporters start chanting slogans as they wave flags and posters of candidates at passing cars along the road leading up to the SMK Agama polling centre in Chinese-majority Taman Mawar.

Shouts of "Hidup Rakyat!" by the smattering of PKR supporters were however drowned out by sheer force of numbers of BN's cheerleaders, who countered with "Hidup BN!" and "Siapa yang bawa pembangunan? BN!".

NONE9.18am: (Galas) More than 100 voters have voted in SRJKC Gua Musang since the polling station more than an hour ago.

Meanwhile, a slight tension occurred near SK Gua Musang, which is situated in Bandar Lama Gua Musang (a mixed area), when some PAS supporters crossed the exclusion zone, angering Umno supporters.

The police are forced to use a Landrover to act as a buffer between the two groups after a lot of shoving and arguments.

SK Gua Musang is considered a hot spot. About 600 supporters from both camps have gathered here since early morning, many carrying banners and flags. One side is shouting

"Allahu Akhbar" and while the other, "1Malaysia".

9.24am: (Batu Sapi) Sapp president and Batu Sapi candidate Yong Teck Lee says he is optimistic of his chances in today's polls.

"It's going to be close, but I'm confident."

Yong criticises the sloganeering and flag-waving from BN and Pakatan Rakyat supporters.

"That is not the culture here. If voters are greeted by all this shouting, it would scare them," he said.

NONE9.31am: (Galas) In Malay-majority Sg Terah polling centre, a tense atmosphere develop as BN supporters continue to attempt to breach the police security cordon. Angry PAS supporters shout them down as the police quickly move to eject the BN supporters to avoid any scuffle.

9.36am: (Batu Sapi) In SJK(C) Cheng Min and SK Bandar Sandakan, the two Chinese-majority polling stations are located side to side on a hill in Sandakan town. The turnout in these two areas is good as voters arrive non-stop in mini-buses which fetch them from the foothill to the two schools.

There are about 30 BN campaigners stationed at the foothill, while PKR supporters are a handful, and as such, no shouting match here.

NONE9.47am: (Batu Sapi) According to the EC, the voter turnout for the first hour as at 9am: 14.68 percent (3,756 ballots cast).

(Galas) The voter turnout is on the low side. As at 9am, 9.93% or 1,147 have casted their votes (not including the six Orang Asli areas).

In Malay-majority Sg Terah, nearly 300 out of 1,912 voters have voted, according to polling centre overseeing officer Ahmad Faisal. He expects the turnout to hit 400 by 11am.

The skies above Galas continue to be overcast with rain clouds thickening. Rain may be imminent soon.

NONE9.49am: (Galas) Kelantan Umno liaison chief Mustapa Mohamed concedes that voting has been a bit slow so far this morning.

"Well, we will have to see later," he says when met outside the SK Seri Wangi polling station.

"It looks like there are more PAS supporters here," observes Mustapa. According to him, the main road leading to the school is too narrow.

NONE9.56am: (Batu Sapi) BN candidate Linda Tsen Thau Lin arrives at her first stop at SMK Agama at Chinese-majority Taman Mawar, accompanied by PBS vice-president Dr Yee Moh Chai and Sekong assemblyperson Samsudin Yahya.

She keeps a calm composure when approached by journalists. Tsen says she feels "encouraged" when asked about the voter turnout.

"This brings back memories when I used to accompany my late husband to visit polling stations," she said.

NONE10.03am: (Galas) Umno information chief Ahmad Maslan makes an appearance in Malay-majority Sg Terah. He says that the situation is calm and only one incident of shoving was reported in SM Tengku Indera Putra.

"There were minor injuries to a BN supporter," he said.

However, he adds that no police report will be made as both sides made peace and shook hands following the fracas.

PAS deputy president Nasharuddin Md Isa is also at Sg Terah polling station. He run into Ahmad Maslan and both men exchange pleasantries.

"This is a friendly contest," says Ahmad Maslan, as he shakes hands with a beaming Nasharuddin.

(Batu Sapi) Election Commission chief Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof arrives at SMK Agama in Taman Mawar in a luxury car convoy to check progress at the polling station.

NONE10.15am: Voters have to walk about 300 metres up the hill to the Malay-majority SK Sri Wangi polling station from the main road.

Many of the old folks and a few pregnant women with children in tow, who are made to walk up to the school, can be heard complaining about the climb.

"Let's take a break first. It's a second gear climb from here," says a voter.

10.29am: (Batu Sapi) The voters turnout as at 10am is 23.05 percent, or 5,897 voters.

Meanwhile, voting in Galas has gathered pace. The voters turnout is now higher than Batu Sapi after a slow start in the first hour - as at 10am, the voters turnout in Galas is 24.02 percent (not including six Orang Asli areas).

NONE10.24am: (Batu Sapi) Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, accompanied by Sabah Chief Minister Musa Aman, visits the SMK Agama polling station.

He wraps up his lightning visit soon after and is scheduled to give a press conference at the Sandakan police headquarters at 1pm.

10.55am: (Galas) Kelantan MCA state chief Dr Ng Yen Yen says she is confident that it will be a victory for BN as the local people want development in Galas.

"They want development, and they hope the 1Malaysia concept will become a reality," Ng told reporters outside of SK Gua Musang in Bandar Lama Gua Musang, a Chinese and Malay mixed area.

(Batu Sapi) Light rain begins to fall at the SMK Agama polling centre, sending party supporters scampering for cover.

It stopped after 10 minutes, but storm clouds are seen closing in, indicating a heavy downpour on the way.

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