

Ku Li to head BN thrust in Galas by-election
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KUALA LUMPUR - Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah has been appointed as Barisan Nasional /Umno election director for the upcoming Galas by-election.

Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin in a statement said the decision was taken at a meeting of Umno's management committee here Wednesday.

"With the blessings of Umno president (Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak), I have contacted Tengku Razaleigh to inform him of the party's decision and he has agreed," said Muhyiddin, who is also Umno deputy president and deputy chairman of the BN.

Kelantan Umno chief Mustapa Mohamed has been appointed deputy election director.

Muhyiddin said he was confident that under the leadership of Razaleigh, who had vast experience and influence in the constituency, the BN's chances of wresting the seat from PAS were much brighter.

The Galas state seat fell vacant following the death of its assemblyman Chek Hashim Sulaima, 46, from PAS, on Monday due to cancer.

In the 2008 general election, Chek Hashim won the seat by a majority of 646 votes. He garnered 4,399 votes to defeat the BN's Saufi Deraman who obtained 3,753 votes.

Malays make up 65.4 per cent of the voters in the constituency, Chinese 22.3 per cent, Indians 1.8 per cent and 10.5 per cent other races.

Meanwhile, MCA vice president Dr Ng Yen Yen said she was confident that the Chinese voters in the constituency would give their full support to the BN.

She said with the services and commitment provided by the local MCA and the federal government to develop the nation and the economy, the Chinese would not opt for a PAS candidate.

The People's Progressive Party also believes it can play a key role in helping the BN wrest the seat.

Its senior vice president Maglin Dennis D'Cruz, who is also deputy information minister, said the party would be activating its election machinery in the constituency to ensure a resounding win for the BN. - Bernama

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