

Ku Li to be candidate for Galas by-election?

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PUTRAJAYA - Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin on Friday hinted that Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah might be fielded as the Barisan Nasional's candidate for the Galas by-election, *The Star* reported.

Muhyiddin said Barisan was willing to consider fielding the Umno veteran as he believed Tengku Razaleigh was the most suitable, based on his influence and long track record in Gua Musang.

Nevertheless, whether Tengku Razaleigh wanted to contest the seat or he wanted to propose someone else to be considered by the top leadership, was up to him.

"We have always made room for him to nominate candidates and if we think the person can win the seat, that person will be given priority," he told reporters after chairing of the National Social Council's executive committee here on Friday.

Muhyiddin was commenting on the call by Kelantan Umno Youth chief Anuar Safian for Tengku Razaleigh to be made the candidate for the Galas seat.

On PAS' claims that choosing Tengku Razaleigh would boost its chances of winning the seat because he was on their side in the matter of oil royalty due to Kelantan, Muhyiddin said PAS was actually "gundah-gulana" (in a dilemma).

"Actually they are at a loss because they know they can never take on Tengku Razaleigh in Gua Musang," he was quoted as saying by *The Star*.

"Tengku Razaleigh has a big influence with the Malay, Chinese, Indian and Orang Asli communities as their members all know him personally. As for the oil royalty issue no one is better qualified than Tengku Razaleigh to explain it," he said.

He said PAS became frightened when the Barisan announced Tengku Razaleigh as the election director for the by-election and now did not know what to do to put up a fight against the coalition.

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

It is one of three seats in the Gua Musang parliamentary constituency with the other two being Nenggiri and Paloh.

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