

Nominations for Galas on Oct 6, polling on Nov 4
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PUTRAJAYA - Polling for the Galas by-election in Kelantan is set on Nov 4, the Election Commission announced Wednesday and nominations of candidates will take place on Oct 6.

Candidates will be competing for one of the three seats in the Gua Musang parliamentary area.

The state seat fell vacant since last Monday following the death of PAS assemblyman Che Hashim Sulaima, 48, who defeated Barisan Nasional's Saufi Deraman of Barisan Nasional (BN) with a majority of 646 votes in the 2008 general election.

It was announced by Barisan secretary-general Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor on Tuesday that the nine-term Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah has agreed to be BN's director of operations in the by-election.

Tengku Adnan said Tengku Razaleigh, or Ku Li as he is popularly known, is the right person to lead the campaign and win back the Galas seat, *The Star* reported.

He also said it is up to the Gua Musang MP to select the candidate since he is director of operations and knows the constituency well.

PAS deputy secretary-general Takiyuddin Hassan last Wednesday had called on BN not to contest for the Galas state seat saying it would be a waste of resources and not having any impact on the state or political scene.

"I am urging Umno not to contest if they are serious about Malay unity. It is pointless for them to contest as even if they win, it will not make any difference to the situation in Kelantan," he was quoted as saying in *The Star* report.

Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin on the same day said that BN will not take the Galas by-election lightly.

He was supported by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak who later on Friday said that the coalition will definitely field its best candidate as there was a need to fill the vacancy for an elected representative in Galas.

Muhyiddin who said the party has faith in Tengku Razaleigh to gain victory also believed that Barisan has a 50-50 chance to win back the seat from PAS.

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