

BN confident of retaining Batu Sapi in by-election [http://www.google.com/buzz/post
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SANDAKAN – Batu Sapi Barisan Nasional (BN) is gearing up for a by-election which will be held following the death of the constituency's member of parliament Edmund Chong Ket Wah in a road accident in Kota Kinabalu.

Its chairman, Samsudin Yahya, said all the BN component parties in the area had identified a suitable campaign strategy to get close to the voters and this would be fine-tuned.

"I don't think we have a problem to retain the Batu Sapi seat as it is a BN stronghold," he told Bernama here Sunday.

In the incident Saturday, Chong who was also Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) treasurer-general, died after the motorcycle he rode was involved in an accident with a car in Jalan Sembulan-Tanjung Aru, Kota Kinabalu.

Samsudin who is Sekong assemblyman, is confident that the BN leadership will field a people-oriented candidate who will continue Chong's good work in Batu Sapi.

On Chong's death, he regarded it Batu Sapi's big loss of a good and caring leader.

The Batu Sapi parliamentary constituency has two state seats -- Sekong which is represented by Samsudin from Umno and Karamunting, by Assistant Chief Minister Datuk Peter Pang En Yin, who is a BN-friendly independent after quitting the Liberal Democratic Party last month.

In a related development, Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee chairman Mustapa Mohamed said the BN will refrain from promising "instant" projects during the campaign for the Galas state by-election on Nov 4.

"We will not promise instant projects during the election campaign this time," he told reporters.

The campaign for the by-election will begin after nomination on Oct 26. The Galas seat fell vacant following the death of the PAS assemblyman, Che Hashim Sulaima, 46, on Sept 27.

The government would give preference to raising the quality of education than build more institutions of higher learning, he said, adding that the 20 public universities in the country were enough.

"For the moment, we do not plan to build more universities, including in Gua Musang," he said.

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