

Galas: Ku Li to lead but not as BN candidate <http://www.google.com/buzz/post>
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KUALA LUMPUR: Barisan Nasional's Galas by-election candidate will be announced only after the Umno general assembly, amidst speculation that Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah may not have accepted the Galas candidacy.

The Umno general assembly is set for next week.

Pundits are saying that Razaleigh, popularly known as Ku Li, had accepted to be the election campaign director because he wanted to revive his prestige in Umno.

The fact that Prime Minister and BN chairman Najib Abdul Razak did not announce Ku Li as the Galas candidate Monday, but only as operations director, could mean that the Kelantan prince has not agreed to his candidacy.

Later, when contacted by the media about his candidacy, Razaleigh denied that he had agreed to become the candidate for Galas.

According to a news portal, Razaleigh insisted that there was no decision on the candidate yet.

Earlier, Najib said the coalition and Umno would commit its "entire might" to securing the Galas state seat.

Najib had announced that Razaleigh had been given his letter of appointment as election campaign director for the by-election on Nov 4.

"He (Tengku Razaleigh) has said he is very ready to lead the Barisan by-election machinery to victory in Galas," Najib told a press conference at the Parliament lobby on Monday.

The Galas state seat is one of three seats under the Gua Musang Parliamentary seat.

Najib said he also gave his assurance that Barisan and Umno will lend all support to wrest the state seat, which was held by PAS assemblyman Che Hashim Sulaima who succumbed to colon cancer recently.

Najib said he would be discussing other by-election details with Razaleigh from time to time.

On the to-be-announced Batu Sapi by-election, Najib said he would need to discuss the matter with Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) president Joseph Pairin Kitingan first.

Later when met at the Parliament lobby, PBS deputy president Dr Maximus Ongkili said Najib had held a preliminary talk on Batu Sapi with Pairin, according to *Bernama*.

Chong Ket Wah, the Batu Sapi MP, passed away last Saturday from severe injuries sustained in a road accident in Kota Kinabalu.

Meanwhile, PAS vice-president Salahuddin Ayub said a high-level party meeting would be held on Wednesday, at its party headquarters in Kuala Lumpur to reach a decision on its candidate for the Galas by-election.

Without naming any favourites chosen to lead the defence of the state seat, Salahuddin said the meeting would involve party advisor Nik Aziz Nik Mat, president Abdul Hadi Awang, deputy president Nasharuddin Mat Isa, vice-presidents Ibrahim Tuan Man, Mahfuz Omar and himself, and information chief Idris Ahmad.

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