

**Anwar hopes for straight fight with BN in Batu Sapi**  
**Malaysianmirror.com**  
**19 October 2010**

KUALA LUMPUR - PKR has announced that the party will field a candidate to contest in Batu Sapi while hoping Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) will not take part in the Nov 4 by-election.

PKR party adviser and Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who announced this in a press conference here Tuesday, said the candidate will soon be made known to the public.

He also said it was agreed in a meeting with PAS and DAP that the seat would be allocated to PKR.

Asked why the seat is given to PKR, Anwar said it was already allocated to the party in 2008.

"I hope that the Sabah Progressive Party will not contest in Batu Sapi so that we will have a straight fight with Barisan Nasional," The Star quoted Anwar as saying.

SAPP, on its website, had announced on Oct 16 that it would contest in the Nov 4 by-election.

Meanwhile, political analyst Patrick Sindu said Tuesday that Sabah Chief Minister Musa Aman's appointment as BN's Batu Sapi by-election director and Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) president Joseph Pairin Kitingan as his deputy was a wise move, Bernama reported.

Sindu said the move would make it hard for the opposition, namely Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) and Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) to wrest the seat.

"I won't be surprised if BN retains the seat with a bigger majority in this by-election," he was quoted as saying, adding that the split opposition was good news for BN.

SAPP had pulled out from Barisan to become an independent party in September 2008.

Anwar also said Dr Hiew King Cheu (DAP-Kota Kinabalu) would lead Pakatan Rakyat's campaign in the by-election.

The Batu Sapi parliamentary seat fell vacant following the death of incumbent Edmund Chong in an accident on Oct 9.

There are 25,582 voters in Batu Sapi of whom 24,047 are ordinary voters and 1,535 postal voters.

15,099 or 59.02 per cent of the voters being Muslim Bumiputeras, 689 non-Muslim Bumiputeras (2.69 per cent), 9,737 Chinese (38.06 per cent) and others, 57 (0.22 per cent).

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