

SAPP picks Teck Lee for Batu Sapi
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SANDAKAN – SAPP has picked its president , Yong Teck Lee, as its choice of candidate for the Batu Sapi parliamentary by-election.

The announcement was made here Saturday by SAPP vice-president Poon Kee Yong, who said the decision to field the former chief minister was finally agreed upon by the party's leaders at 2am.

The Star quoted Poon as saying that "Sabah needs a brave leader. "

"We need someone who can initiate efforts to bring back Sabah's autonomy and to fight for the state's rights.

"We need someone who can bring about change," he said at the opening of SAPP's Karamunting office in this Sabah east coast district.

Poon's announcement elicited loud applause from the several hundred SAPP members and supporters as Yong, flanked by the party's top leaders, raised his hands in front of the crowd.

This will be Yong's first election outing after his disqualification from contesting in the polls in 2001 due to a 1999 election billboards offence. The ban was lifted in 2006.

Yong, however, stayed out of the March 2008 general election when SAPP's request for the Kota Kinabalu parliament seat held by Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) was turned down by Barisan Nasional.

The Batu Sapi by-election on Nov 4 will also be the first polls that will see SAPP taking on Barisan, since the party quit the ruling coalition on Sept 17, 2008.

Yong, 52, was chief minister from 1996 to 1998 under Barisan's two-year rotation system of the post.

The by-election was called due to the death of Barisan's Batu Sapi MP Edmund Chong Ket Wah (PBS) in an accident on Oct 9.

The constituency that encompasses the Sekong and Karamunting state seats is 1318sq km in size or four-and-a-half times the size of Penang island.

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