

Ansari named as PKR candidate for Batu Sapi by-election
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SANDAKAN - Opposition coalition Pakatan Rakyat has picked Parti Keadlilan Rakyat supreme council member Ansari Abdullah (*picture*) as its candidate for the Batu Sapi by-election on Nov 4.

As PKR adviser Anwar Ibrahim announced Pakatan's choice of the 56-year-old lawyer at about 5.15pm on Sunday, the Hakka Association community hall, which was packed, saw some people began walking out.

By the time Ansari spoke, the hall was only three quarters full. Those who walked out said that they had wanted Sabah PKR chief Ahmad Thamrin Jaini to be their candidate.

"Until yesterday, we thought our recommendation was intact. Even the DAP had agreed that Thamrin, who is a local, was a suitable candidate," said one PKR leader who decided to drive back to Tawau, according to *The Star*.

During his announcement, Anwar said that Pakatan had considered various issues and had decided Ansari was the best choice.

Ansari later urged the crowd to look at him as a Sabahan first and PKR member next.

A practicing lawyer, Ansari had contested the Tuaran MP and Sulaman state seats in the 2008 general election.

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