

Nomination process for Batu Sapi by-election begins
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SANDAKAN - The nomination process for the Nov 4 Batu Sapi parliamentary by-election started at 9am at the Sandakan Community Hall, here Tuesday.

The nomination period is for one hour from 9am, followed by an objection period of one hour, after which the candidates for the by-election will be announced by returning officer Mohamad Hamsan Awang Supain.

Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin led the Barisan Nasional (BN) supporters to the nomination centre while Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) was led by its President Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Supporters of Sabah-based opposition party, Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) was led by its president Yong Teck Lee, who is also the party's candidate for the by-election.

BN has named Linda Tsen Thau Lin, 54, wife of the late member of parliament for Batu Sapi, Edmund Chong, as its candidate while SAPP has chosen Yong, 51, who is also former Sabah chief minister. PKR has named a prominent lawyer Ansari Abdullah, 56, as its candidate.

The weather at the nomination centre was fine with supporters of the respective candidates having gathered as early as sunrise rise and reached the nomination centre by 8.30am.

The police were in full force guiding traffic and making sure no untoward incidents happened in a narrow coastal road leading to the nomination centre.

The Batu Sapi parliamentary seat fell vacant following the death of its incumbent and two-term MP Edmund Chong, due to an accident on Oct 9.

Chong won the seat in the 2008 general election by a 3,708-majority, defeating independent candidate Dr Chung Kong Wing. Chong polled 9,479 votes as against Dr Chung's 5,771. He won the same seat in 2004 general election unopposed.

Batu Sapi has 25,582 voters, of whom 24,047 are ordinary voters and 1,535 postal voters. A total of 15,099 or 59.02 per cent of the voters are Muslim Bumiputeras, 689 non-Muslim Bumiputeras (2.69 per cent), 9,737 Chinese (38.06 per cent) and others, 57 (0.22 per cent). - Bernama

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