

RTM will cover opposition's campaign, says Rais
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GUA MUSANG - Starting with the Galas state seat by-election, the opposition's campaign and activities will be covered and broadcast by Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM).

Information Communication and Culture Minister Dr Rais Yatim (*pic*) said that realising the opposition also had sound views on matters, a decision was made to give them space but the news items should relate to Malaysia's plural society and national issues that would bring good to all.

"From this by-election (Galas) until the elections after this, RTM will continue with the format of giving coverage and broadcast space to the opposition.

"It's time that in the interest of the public we also listen to the good thoughts of the other side," he told Bernama when met at the Gua Musang Land and District Office after the nomination of candidates for the Galas by-election, here, Tuesday.

On the duration of the broadcast, Rais said: "It is not a question of minutes but if the news item is important and useful for the people to know, we should use it.

"For example, if Hadi Awang (PAS president) says how important it is for Muslims to unite, how many minutes (of the broadcast) is not the issue. We should just carry it, giving what it's worth. That's what I meant."

However, he said, decorum must be observed where there should be no abusive and provocative words used and no conveying of one's political ideology.

On the nomination process in Galas Tuesday, Rais said he was happy with the smooth running and that party supporters were cool, while the leaders of the contesting parties showed mutual respect by exchanging greetings and talking politely to each other.

"If there were fights, shouting using abusive words, and throwing of 'missiles' previously, there were none today.

"This is a good development...eventually, we will have a society that is politically mature and understands true democracy,," he said.

The Galas by-election on Nov 4 will see a straight contest between Barisan Nasional candidate Abdul Aziz Yusof, 49, and Dr Zulkefli Mohamad, 44, from PAS. - Bernama