

**Confident BN fires first salvo at Batu Sapi opponents**  
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SANDAKAN - Barisan Nasional fired the first salvo at its opponents in the Batu Sapi by-election just minutes after the candidates were officially announced The Star reported.

Taking a direct swipe at the two opposition candidates, Barisan deputy chairman Muhyiddin Yassin described Parti Keadilan Rakyat's Ansari Abdullah as a recycled candidate.

"Ansari is a candidate of little value and now he is being recycled," said the Deputy Prime Minister at the community centre here Tuesday.

Muhyiddin was asked about the challenge posed by PKR supreme council member Ansari and SAPP president Yong Teck Lee against Barisan's Linda Tsen Thau Lin of Parti Bersatu Sabah.

As for Yong, Muhyiddin said: "People know who Yong is."

Yong was in Barisan since 1994 but pulled SAPP out of the ruling coalition on Sept 17, 2008 claiming it had lost confidence in the leadership of former prime minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Muhyiddin said Barisan would take the bull by the horns and take on any issue or allegation raised by the Opposition.

"We know they will be raising all sorts of local and national issues. We are prepared for it," he said.

Asked about allegations that Barisan was intending to give out RM2,000 to each voter, Muhyiddin said: "I am not aware of it. We always abide by all election rules and such false accusations must stop."

On the differences between Batu Sapi and Galas state seat by-election, he said there were the physical aspects such as the topography and landscape.

"Local and national issues to be brought up will also be different," said Muhyiddin, who later flew to Galas, according to The Star.

Chief Minister Musa Aman said Barisan started the campaign for Batu Sapi on a good footing as it had the best candidate.

"We have our reasons to be confident but what is important is the co-operation among all the Barisan parties," said the election director for Barisan.

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