

Batu Sapi PKR top guns defect to Umno
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SANDAKAN – The deputy chief of Parti Keadilan Rakyat's Batu Sapi division, Amir Bak and 200 other members of the division today quit the party to join Umno.

The division's vice head Abdullah Madu and seven committee members were also among those who quit.

All them handed over their Umno membership application forms to Umno deputy president Muhyiddin Yassin when the deputy prime minister performed the groundbreaking ceremony for a people's housing project in Lupak Meluas here.

Besides this, 50 Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) members from five of its divisions in Batu Sapi also quit SAPP to join Umno while Dr Francis Chong, who contested the Batu Sapi seat as an independent candidate in the 2008 general election, announced that he would be joining Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), a BN component party.

The PKR and SAPP members said they were doing so because they had become disillusioned with their respective parties.

In the Galas by-election, PAS has offered to pay the transportation cost for 1,557 voters living outside Kelantan to come to the state to vote on Nov 4.

Kelantan PAS Election Advisor Wan Abdul Rahim Wan Abdullah said the party would pay the voters once they had cast their ballots.

He told a news conference that voters coming back from Johor would be paid RM250 and from the Klang Valley, RM200.

Those staying elsewhere in Kelantan would be paid according to the distance they had to travel to get to the polling stations, he said, adding that the payment was not a bribe.

In a related development, politics and campaigning for the Galas by-election will take a break during the duration of the Malaysia Cup final Saturday between Kelantan and Negri Sembilan at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

Umno Deputy Youth Chief Razali Ibrahim proposed a "ceasefire" for the duration of the Malaysia Cup final to allow the people to watch the Malaysia Cup final that is scheduled to start at 8.45pm.

PLUS Expressways has reported traffic congestion since 2.30pm Saturday on the road leading to the Bukit Jalil National Stadium, venue of the Malaysia Cup soccer final tonight, from the Sungai Besi toll plaza.

A spokesman said the traffic congestion was on the road leading to the East-West Link (Metramac) Highway and the exit road to Bukit Jalil.

According to Bernama, he said the congestion was expected to worsen closer to 8.45pm, the kickoff time for the match between Negri Sembilan and Kelantan.

The spokesman said traffic was smooth, however, on the south-bound lanes of the North-South Expressway.

He said PLUS Expressways would keep motorists updated on the traffic situation via the Variable Message Signs.

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