

**D-Day for Galas and Batu Sapi**  
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UPDATE KUALA LUMPUR - D-Day is here as polling for the Galas state by-election in Gua Musang, Kelantan and Batu Sapi parliamentary by-election in Sandakan, Sabah, began at 8am Thursday.

In Galas, Dr Zulkefli Mohamed of PAS is locked in a straight fight against Barisan Nasional's (BN) Abdul Aziz Yusoff.

Batu Sapi is seeing a three-way fight involving Linda Tsen Thau Lin of BN, Yong Teck Lee of Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) and Ansari Abdullah of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR).

Voters have begun queuing up at polling centres in both constituencies, according to Bernama.

Bernama reported the Election Commission (EC) as saying that a total of 8,073 or 69.88 per cent of voters cast their votes in the Galas polls as at 5pm.

In Batu Sapi, some 61.47 per cent or 15,774 voters have cast their votes as at 5pm, the EC said.

Fine weather greeted early voters, mostly farmers and fishermen, who began arriving at some of the 12 polling centres, well before opening time. However, the weather man has predicted a cloudy afternoon.

The Batu Sapi seat fell vacant following the death of incumbent and two-term MP, Edmund Chong, in an accident on Oct 9. Tsen is his widow.

Chong won the seat in the 2008 general election by a 3,708-majority, defeating independent candidate Dr Chung Kong Wing. Chong 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% of the voters are Muslim Bumiputras, 689 non-Muslim Bumiputras (2.69%), 9,737 Chinese (38.06%) and others, 57 (0.22%).

Galas has 11,553 voters and 13 polling centres with the vote tallying to be carried out at Gua Musang civic centre.

The weather was fine in Galas in the morning but according to the Malaysian Meteorological Department, there would be rain in the afternoon.

The Galas by-election is called following the death of its incumbent, Chek Hashim Sulaima, 46, of PAS on Sept 27.

Postal voters had cast theirs on Tuesday and yesterday. The vote tallying will be carried out at Sandakan community hall.

Polling closes at 5pm while the results can be expected at around 8pm, according to the

Election Commission.

Late Wednesday, The Star reported that campaigners went on a frantic last push to sway fence-sitters to their side on the eve of polling for both the Galas and Batu Sapi by-elections.

Top guns from all parties were at various locations in the two constituencies, holding last-minute fiery ceramahs after a morning of door-to-door campaigning.

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