

BN begins mind war to woo voters

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RAUB: Barisan Nasional Youth is embarking on a psychological war to win the hearts and minds of Batu Talam voters.

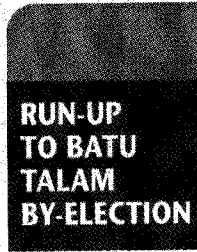
It will also encourage young voters to support the party in the Batu Talam by-election on Jan 28.

BN Youth by-election operations director Khairy Jamaluddin said the wing's machinery would make sure the presence of BN was felt in all places in the state constituency.

"Our members will attend all BN programmes in the area," he said after presenting BN flags to Raub BN Youth leaders at Felda Tersang near here yesterday.

Khairy, who is deputy Umno Youth chief, said it was sending about 1,000 members to help the BN machinery in Batu Talam.

Khairy said Umno Youth chair-



man Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein would officially launch the wing's election machinery on Jan 13.

"After that, we will launch our second phase of war, which is to woo young voters to vote for the BN candidate."

About 27 per cent of the 10,525 voters in Batu Talam are aged between 21 and 40.

Khairy said the BN Youth machinery would make sure that all eligible young people cast their votes in the by-election.

The Election Commission has set Jan 16 as Nomination Day and, in the event of a contest, Jan 28 for polling in the by-election brought about by the death of BN assemblyman Datuk Tengku Paris Tengku Razlan on Dec 27.

In the 2004 general election, Tengku Paris garnered 5,414 votes, defeating Dr Mohamed Nilam Abdul Manap of Pas by a 2,761-vote majority.

Meanwhile, Bernama reports that Pas vice-president Datuk Husam Musa had asked the EC to "clean up the electoral roll for the constituency as there was a duplication of names."

Husam said the Pas central committee would meet tomorrow to decide whether the party should contest the by-election.

In **Kuantan**, Pahang BN chairman Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said BN would hold a 12-day campaign to enable the people to voice their complaints.

Meanwhile, Pahang MCA deputy chairman Datuk Fu Ah Kiow said the party would work to get all 1,231 Chinese voters in Batu Talam to support BN.

Fu, who is also Deputy Internal Security Minister, said the party's election machinery would be fully operational next week.

"It is crucial for us to get every single Chinese vote there as they make up 11.7 per cent of the votes."