

## **Chew Mei Fun to battle Anwar in Kajang**

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MCA vice-president Chew Mei Fun has been picked as the BN candidate to cross swords with PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim in the Kajang by-election.

BN deputy chairperson Muhyiddin Yassin announced this during a press conference at BN headquarters at Menara Dato Onn in Kuala Lumpur today.

Chew is a former deputy minister and also ex-Petaling Jaya Utara MP.

Muhyiddin described her as a person of credibility, and experienced as she had previously held various positions in the government.

He added the by-election was an opportunity for BN to explain its policies.

"If the BN does not contest, (and) it is associated with all kinds of issues, who then will do the explaining? This is an opportunity and platform for us to explain," he said.

Muhyiddin said the by-election will also be a test for MCA's new team.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak says BN would have to work doubly hard in the by-election as it is entering the contest as underdogs.

"We will support her (Chew), wish her well. We will try our level best.

"We go in as underdogs this time but BN will work double hard to ensure the best possible outcome," he said at a press conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting.

Even though Chew faces an uphill battle in Kajang, held by the PKR since 2008, her entry into the by-election is part of a series of events that have marked her political comeback.

In 2010, Chew made good on her promise and [resigned](#) as MCA Wanita chief and as women, family and community deputy minister after Dr Chua Soi Lek became the party president, citing her inability to work with a leader tainted by a sex scandal.

However, Chew notably made a comeback last year as an MCA vice-president, after Chua's retirement.

### **'Crowded battle'**

The battle for Kajang is expected to be a crowded one, with several independent candidates expected to join the fray, among them former minister Zaid Ibrahim (*right, in picture*).

Other independent candidates may include Anwar's former ally-turned-critic, S Nallakarupam, and old-time singer Herman Tino.

The NewGen Party had also announced that it will be fielding a candidate.

The Kajang by-election - dubbed the "Kajang Move" - was triggered by the resignation of PKR's Lee Chin Cheh.

Lee vacated the seat to make way for Anwar, who has since hinted that he may take over as Selangor menteri besar if he wins.

The move appears to be a bid to quell disquiet within Selangor PKR, which has been at odds with supporters of current Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim and the faction led by PKR deputy president Azmin Ali.

In 2013, PKR won the **Kajang** state seat in a six-cornered fight with a 6,824-vote majority.

BN came in second place with 12,747 votes. The other contenders were from Berjasa and three independent candidates.

Nomination day is fixed for March 11 with polling day scheduled for March 23.

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