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Parliament-debate

ENFORCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT AT ONCE, SAYS OPPOSITION MP

KUALA LUMPUR, April 1 (Bernama) -- An opposition member of parliament today called on the government to expedite the enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) in view of the rise in abuse cases within families.

Hajah Ilani Isahak (S46-Kota Baharu) told the Dewan Rakyat that the act was complete enough to be enforced and any weakness could be overcome through amendments.

The government was not serious in enforcing the DVA as the act was not politically important, she charged when debating the motion of thanks to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong for his opening speech.

The House rejected a motion by Karpal Singh (DAP-Jelutong) expressing regret that the DVA was still not enforced despite having been passed two years ago.

Tabling the motion, Karpal said he was disappointed with the indifferent attitude of National Unity and Social Development Minister, Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail, towards enforcing the act.

He said women's groups and non-governmental organisations had been fighting for a decade for the cause of women and children who were victims of domestic violence in this country.

Encik Akbarkhan Abdul Rahman (BN-Libaran) told the Dewan Rakyat that the amendment to the constitution of Sabah announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had long been awaited by the people of Sabah.

This was because it was an effective way of reducing power abuse and stepping up power sharing among state cabinet members, he said.

Akbarkhan said the time had come for Sabah Foundation to be restructured in accordance with current needs so that it was able to face the increasingly sophisticated challenges ahead.

He said politicians should not be allowed to be the foundation's director or the chief executive of its subsidiary company, Innoprise Corporation.

Datuk Abu Seman Yusof (BN-Alor Gajah) said the emphasis on technology in the field of education could help produce more skilled workers in the country.

He said the Education Ministry must adopt an integrated approach to overcome the increasing number of students dropping science subjects in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination.

Tan Yee Kew (BN-Klang) said the country's economic growth of 9.5 per cent and the projected rise in per capita income to RM11,000 in 1996 came about through proper planning and good leadership.

The debate continues tomorrow. -- Bernama

RHM ARA NJ SK JK