

08 NOV 1996

Samy Vellu-Kit Siang

SAMY VELLU SHOULD BE COMMENDED- KIT SIANG

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang has commended Works Minister Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu for being present in the Dewan Rakyat most of the time this year to answer questions of members.

"Samy Vellu should be commended as a check with parliamentary records this year show that he had attended the Dewan Rakyat on nine separate sittings to personally respond to questions during question time," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and International Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz had attended parliament on two separate occasions to answer parliamentary questions, he said in a statement here.

However, he said both Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik had never attended parliament during question time to answer questions pertaining to their ministries although parliament is meeting for the fourth time this year.

"If Samy Vellu can be in parliament for at least nine days to answer questions in four parliamentary meetings this year, there is no reason why Dr Ling and Dr Lim cannot be equally diligent in discharging their parliamentary duties," he said.

Lim said Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie attended only once during question time to answer a question on Dr Mahathir's visit to the World Solar Summit Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe in September and the government's plan on the use of alternative energy.

He said Education Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak had impressed Members of Parliament for his diligence in personally guiding seven education bills through the Dewan Rakyat after the April 1995 general election.

In contrast, although four transport bills had been passed by parliament since the last general election, Dr Ling had not bothered to attend parliament to introduce a single one of them, or even to be present to reply to the debate by MPs for anyone of these bills, he added.

In another statement, Lim suggested the enacting of a "new, comprehensive and all-powerful anti-corruption law" to replace the present Prevention of Corruption Act 1961 so as to update the definition of corruption, increase penalties for corruption and give enhanced powers to the anti-corruption agency.

He also proposed the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee on Corruption and the enacting of "Whistleblowers' Legislation" which will give protection to government servants or members of the public who make reports to the ACA on corrupt practices. --BERNAMA

ARA AAM