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Anwar to table motion of confidence on PM

Fadzil Ghazali

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is scheduled to move a motion of confidence at the Dewan Rakyat today, calling the House to, among other things, express full support to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Anwar's motion also urges the House to protest against several initiatives made by the US, namely to investigate Petroliam Nasional Bhd's investments in Iran and its 34 Congressmen's proposal demanding an apology from Dr Mahathir for his alleged anti-Jewish and anti-American remarks.

In the Dewan Rakyat's notice paper released yesterday, it stated that the motion seeks the House to stress that Malaysia, under the leadership of Dr Mahathir, will continue with its policy of respecting the interests of all races.

Therefore, the House should deny that the existing Malaysian administration, which practises fair, just and open policy, is against any race including the Jews.

The notice paper also stated that Anwar's motion, while urging the House to express regret over the the US Government's imposition of Iran-Libya Act on Petronas, calls on the Dewan to continue with efforts to improve ties with the US.

* THE Government, in its efforts to prevent smallholders from being exploited by unscrupulous traders, has established a Rubber Price Committee to ensure that the commodity fetches a fair price.

Deputy Primary Industries Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the committee is entrusted with the responsibility of formulating strategies as well as programmes that could help smallholders in getting good prices for their rubber.

Replying to a question from Jacob Dungau Sagan (BN-Baram), he said members of the committee include officials from Government-owned rubber agencies, Rural Development Ministry and representatives from the rubber trading sector.

In reply to a question from Jacob Dungau Sagan (BN-Baram), he said Malaysia will seek cooperation from Asean and various natural rubber producer nations to work out ways to place the commodity prices at favourable levels.

* THE plantation sector's growing importance, which was spurred by the currency crisis, has prompted the Government to review its present policy on foreign workers recruitment in the industry.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Mohamed Tajol Rosli Ghazali said at present, the Government is analysing the feasibility of re-allowing foreign workers recruitment to the plantation sector.

* PRIME Minister's Department Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman said the pros and cons of the staggered working hours scheme in five government agencies are being studied by the Government.

Replying to a question from Chia Kwang Chye (BN-Bukit Bendera), Fauzi said the fate of the scheme being implemented in the entire public sector will be announced once the study is finished.

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