

23 FEB 1997

Dewan-Reprimand

BN MAN REPRIMANDED FOR QUESTIONING SPEAKER'S POWER

KOTA BAHARU, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- Kelantan State Assembly Speaker Wan Abdul Rahim Wan Abdullah today reprimanded Opposition Leader Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir (Melor-BN) for questioning the Assembly's decision to reject several oral questions submitted by the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"This is my final warning to the member concerned not to question my decision, my decision is the decision of the Assembly," he said referring to Zainal's statement to the media about the issue.

According to him, as Speaker he is empowered to reject any question presented to the Assembly based on certain reasons and any decision made would be final.

Last Monday, Zainal said in a statement to the media that 19 oral questions and one written question from the BN representatives on the aspects of administration and the people's welfare such as the Mekah Corridor Fund, the Kota Baharu Municipality and Hudud Laws were rejected.

Wan Abdul Rahim said Zainal should not have used the media to question the decision which had prompted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to comment on the matter.

In this regard, he urged BN assemblymen who had any problem concerning the Assembly proceedings to see him in his office to overcome any dissatisfaction.

He said he only accepted 72 per cent of the questions submitted by Pas and BN for this sitting and rejected 17 oral questions from BN and 10 from Pas.

Meanwhile, Zainal said it was not his intention to question the power of the Speaker when he disclosed the matter but it was done to expose the facts which should be made known to the public.

"I don't understand why the Speaker is so sensitive, the Speaker should be open minded and should not favour any side," he said when approached by reporters. -- BERNAMA

RAR AO