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Call to act against slandering leadership

THE authorities were yesterday urged to take measures to stop people from slandering the leadership.

Datuk Abu Zahar Datuk Nik Ujang said action must also be taken against people who undermined the country's stability and prosperity.

Debating the 1998 Budget proposals, he said the police, Anti-Corruption Agency and the Attorney General could take action against people who slandered others through poison-pen letters or printed material including books.

Abu Zahar said action should follow irrespective of the person's status or the position he or she held in the government or Barisan Nasional.

He called on all Malaysians to give their full support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in efforts to stabilise the economy and the ringgit.

Zainuddin Mohamed Nor (BN-Pasir Mas) praised the Government for granting large allocations for rural development, agriculture and education.

The Government must be congratulated for continuing with large allocations for rural areas so that more development programmes could be undertaken.

Lim Hock Seng (DAP-Bagan) called on the Transport Ministry to review its proposals to disallow commercial vehicles from transporting goods longer than the vehicles' length.

Many such vehicles were used to transport products which were sometimes longer than the vehicles.

The ruling which would come into force on Dec 15 would affect the income of the owners of such vehicles.

Datuk Hanafi Ramli (BN-Jerlun) praised Anwar for tabling a budget proposal which addressed the present economic problems faced by the country.

"He (Anwar) has not only taken positive measures to overcome the problems but has not further burdened the people, particularly the lower income group."

Hanafi said currency manipulators "are jealous of the government's success under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Cabinet ministers."

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