

01/10/1997

Kit Siang hopes Barisan MPs will support motion

IPOH, Tues. - Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang today expressed hope that the Barisan Nasional MPs would support a motion by the DAP to discuss the haze when the Dewan Rakyat meets on Monday.

Lim said he had written to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim asking him to allow the motion to take precedence over other government business.

"I have also asked the Government to suspend the Standing Order that the 14-day notice must be given in order to move a motion as the haze and the environmental degradation are of grave concern to all," he said after launching a signature campaign urging the implementation of the Clean Air Action Plan.

He also released a bunch of balloons at the Super Kinta wet market to mark the launch.

Lim said the support of MPs was vital as there had been air and sea collisions, and road accidents as a result of thick haze.

"The Air Pollutant Index had dipped below 100 over the last two days but this does not mean the haze has disappeared," he said.

"We hope the Government will treat the haze as a serious problem and not as a marginal issue," he said.

He said Malaysia should also demand compensation from Indonesia for its lack of action in combating the forest fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

On the signature campaign, he said the party hoped to get 100,000 signatures in the first week and will hand them over to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In Taiping where he also launched the signature campaign, Lim said studies should be conducted on the effects of the haze on people suffering from cancer and chronic respiratory diseases.

He also urged the Government to make public all available information on the effects of the haze on health and environment.

Lim said the Government should study the damage on the Malaysian economy and people.

He welcomed the directive by Chief Justice Tun Mohd Eusoff Chin to the courts to quickly dispose of all cases under the Environment Quality Act 1974.

"The decision will have an impact on the protection of the environment," he said.

(END)