

Terengganu backs PM, opposes demos

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KUALA TERENGGANU: The Terengganu state assembly passed an emergency motion yesterday to support the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in addressing the country's economic problems and his sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the Government.

Datuk Abdul Rashid Ngah (RN - Seberang Takir) tabled the emergency motion.

He said the assembly was against any illegal gathering and also the use of mosques and public areas by irresponsible people out to create disorder

in the country and hatred towards the Government.

Abdul Rashid said the government would continue supporting the Prime Minister and would implement similar measures at state level to address the economic problems.

Awang Abdul Jabar (BN - Bukit Besi) supported the motion, which he said was necessary to establish political stability and peace in the country.

He said the people should support the system to preserve democracy and reject the reform movement initiated by Anwar because the Government had implemented reformations through various policies since independence.

Awang said the people should avoid the kind of situation experienced in Cambodia and Indonesia where political instability had caused the people there to live in poverty.

He said the people's support in the leadership would help the Government rule the country with confidence and prevent interference from outside.

Debating the motion, Harun Hassan (BN - Air Putih) said the people should let the court decide on the charges of Anwar's sexual misconduct.

He said the people should not take the law into their own hands.

The one-day assembly also passed a motion congratulating Sultan Mizan

on his installation as Sultan of Terengganu.

The assembly also passed another motion to pay allowances of RM4,875 and RM2,437.50 a month respectively to the wives of the late Sultan of Terengganu, Tengku Ampuan Bariah and Sharifah Nong Ase-gaff, effective from May 14, 1998.

Four other Bills — the Water Supply Enactment 1998, Water Supply (Successor Company) Enactment 1998, amendment to the Malay Reservations Enactment 1360 and an enactment to apply for a sum out of the consolidated fund for additional expenditure for the service of the year 1998 — were later passed.