

11 NOV 1998

Assembly-Sarawak-(Mahathir)

ASSEMBLY ADOPTS MOTION SUPPORTING DR MAHATHIR

KUCHING, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak State Legislative Assembly today adopted a motion expressing support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's handling of the current economic situation.

The motion also deplored those who called for Dr Mahathir's resignation through street demonstrations.

Datuk Effendi Norwawi (BN-Dalat), who is also chairman of the Sarawak Backbenchers' Club, moved the motion after completion of question time at 10.15 am.

Effendi, who is also a well-known business figure, said the country has been blessed with a strong, able and respected leader in Dr Mahathir, who is truly committed to nation-building.

"This man has given the country the vision and mission that has inspired every Malaysian," he said reading out a speech entitled "We Need Dr Mahathir Now More Than Ever" when moving the motion.

This was followed by debate on the motion by 16 state assemblymen, including two DAP members, that continued in the afternoon sitting after the lunch break.

The House then approved the motion with all the Barisan Nasional (BN) assemblymen present voting for it and the two DAP members, against.

Wong Ho Leng (DAP-Bukit Assek) in objecting against the motion complained of the limited notice given for the tabling of and debate on the motion.

Fellow opposition member Jason Wong Sing Nang (DAP-Pelawan) said his party disapproved of and did not support street violence but called on the government to give the people some leeway to express their opinion peacefully.

Just a few minutes into his debate Ho Leng, the deputy speaker Datuk Mohd Asfia Awang Nassar interjected and asked the member how long more he had to complete his points.

Ho Leng said that he would take about five minutes but the deputy speaker said he would give the DAP member three more minutes.

To this, Ho Leng replied that he would try his best but Asfia, who appeared uneasy with the reply retorted: "If I (were to) ask you to sit down, you must sit down."

Speaking to reporters later, Effendi said he would present the resolution himself to Dr Mahathir in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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