

27 NOV 1998

Assembly-Negeri-Mahathir

ASSEMBLY SUPPORTS PM, CONDEMNS FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

SEREMBAN, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- The Negeri Sembilan State Legislative Assembly today passed an urgent motion of confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

At the same time the motion condemned any attempt by foreign leaders to interfere in the political affairs of an independent and sovereign Malaysia.

The House also approved the state budget for 1999 as well as three other bills namely the Special Pension Bill (Her Highness Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah (Amendment) 1998, Special Pension Bill (Tunku Durah binti Tunku Besar Burhanuddin) (Amendment) 1998 and the Special Pensions Bill 1998.

The pension bills were approved without debate.

When tabling the urgent motion, Hashimuddin Datuk Abdul Kadir (BN-Seri Menanti) said Malaysians abhorred clandestine attempts, especially by western countries, to meddle in Malaysia's internal affairs.

Hashimuddin urged Malaysians not to just leave Dr Mahathir alone to deal with the country's problems but instead close ranks to give solid backing to his leadership.

He said foreign leaders with own agendas had tried to capitalise on the country's economic crisis and internal problems arising from the expulsion of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the Cabinet and Umno.

In seconding the motion Datuk Ishak Ismail (BN-Lenggeng) said Malaysians would not tolerate attempts to undermine the well-being of the present and future generations and would fight them to the end.

Five assemblymen debated the motion, including Zainal Mokhtar Mohd Yunus (BN-Senaling), who declared that United States vice president Al Gore's provocative remarks at the recent Apec business summit dinner in Kuala Lumpur as the most glaring example of foreign interference.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad, when winding up debate on the state budget for next year said heads of department should heed recent reminders by the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali of incomplete statement of accounts submitted to the State Auditor.

Mohd Isa called for a stop to their apathy towards the matter as the problem had been going on for some years now.

Negeri Sembilan is expecting a RM22.6 million budget deficit next year with an operating expenditure of RM221.5 million against a projected revenue of RM198.90 million.

The Special Pension (Her Highness Tunku Puan Besar Kurshiah (Amendment) Bill 1998, tabled by state Public Works and Communications Committee chairman Datuk Napsiah Omar, sought to increase the quantum of the special monthly pension for Tunku Besar Kurshiah from RM2,600 to RM2,950.

State Industrial and Agriculture Committee chairman Datuk Shamsul Bahari Mat, when tabling the Special Pension (Tunku Durah binti Tunku Besar Burhanuddin) (Amendment) Bill 1998, said it sought to increase Tunku Durah's monthly pension from RM2,340 to RM2,950.

The Special Pensions Bill 1998, tabled by state Basic Amenities Committee chairman Datuk Darus Salim Bulin, sought, among others, to provide special monthly pensions of RM1,000 of the widow of the former Undang Empat, RM750 to the widow of Tunku Besar Tampin and RM750 to the widow of the former Datuk Shahbandar Sungai Ujong.

The assembly later adjourned sine die.

-- BERNAMA

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