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Parliament-Card

DAP DISTRIBUTES GREETING CARD FOR GUAN ENG IN HOUSE

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- A DAP member today took the opportunity to distribute copies of a birthday postcard for the imprisoned Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Kota Melaka) despite objections from government backbenchers in the Dewan Rakyat.

When debating the 1999 Supply Bill at the committee stage, M. Kulasegaran (Teluk Intan) urged fellow MPs, whether from the government or opposition, to send the DAP-produced card to Lim.

"If those over there (referring to government backbenchers) were in prison, we will also send (them) this type of card," he said.

The card shows Lim's supporters lined up in front of the Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad here and comes complete with Lim's address at Kajang Prison.

The card was also given to journalists at the Press Room.

Lim, who turns 38 on Dec 8, was sentenced to 18 months' jail after he was found guilty of two charges under the Sedition Act and Printing Presses Act.

During the debate, Noh Omar (BN-Tanjong Karang) stood up and asked Deputy Speaker Datuk Juhar Mahiruddin to stop the distribution of the card.

The card had attracted the attention of MPs who had read and seen it, he said.

"According to Rule 41 of Standing Orders, members shall not read newspapers, books, letters or other documents except such matters therein as may be directly connected with the business under debate," Noh said.

Juhar then interrupted him to say he would check on the matter and make a decision when sitting resumed for the afternoon session.

However, the afternoon session which began at 2.30pm was chaired by Speaker Tun Mohamad Zahir Ismail.

Kulasegaran told reporters that his distribution of the card did not breach any regulation because the card carried the name and address of the printer.

"Only materials without the printer's name and address are banned from distribution in the House, like the "Kami Sokong Mahathir" sticker given out by government supporters to all members at the last sitting," he said.

The House will sit again tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

NZ YBY