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Kit Siang calls for Ministerial statement on current problems

PENANG, Fri. - Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang today urged Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to present a Ministerial statement in Parliament on Monday on the worsening economic crisis.

Lim said the statement should give revised gross domestic product estimates, the progress and success of the National Economic Action Council, the economic recovery measures being undertaken and how the Government proposed to restore confidence among the people and investors, both local and international.

"The Ministerial statement should be followed by a full debate in Parliament," said Lim.

Lim, who is also MP for Tanjung, said at a Press conference that it was time that the Government came out with a more realistic projection of the GDP growth this year for the Malaysian economy.

The Malaysian ringgit fell to a five-month low against the US dollar breaking through the 4.20 level on Thursday while the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange market composite index fell 7.39 points to 447.89.

This, Lim pointed out, was one of the disturbing signs that although Malaysia had been hit by the economic crisis for a year, there was still no respite and that all indications were that the worst was yet to come.

He also called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to put off the debate on the Chemists Act 1975 (Amendment) Bill in Parliament on Monday.

Lim said Dr Mahathir should ensure that Parliament gave top priority to a full debate on the economic crisis and his motion on nepotism on the first two days of Parliament.

"This is to show Malaysians and the world that the Malaysian Parliament has a proper order of priorities about what the burning issues in the country are," he said.

Lim said it would make a complete mockery of the Parliamentary process if Barisan Nasional MPs were to spend two days on the three-paragraph Chemists Amendment Bill.

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