

24/07/1998

Morning sittings for Dewan Rakyat proposed

Asiah Bujang

THE Parliament Standing Orders Committee will hold a meeting next week to discuss a proposal for the Dewan Rakyat to start its sittings in the morning instead of the present practice of an afternoon session.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail said under the proposal, the House will sit from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from 2.30pm to 5.30pm.

If approved, the morning and afternoon sessions will begin in October, he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after launching a book on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad titled "CEO Malaysia: Strategy in Nation-Building."

He said the changes are necessary as at present some of staff at Parliament have to work until late evenings whenever the session is extended.

"With the two sessions every day, Members of Parliament (MP) will have more time to debate the bills," he added.

Under the proposal, the number of sittings a week will also be reduced. At present, the Dewan Rakyat meets for four days a week, Monday to Thursday, from 2.30pm to 6.30pm.

Mohamed Zahir said the change "is not something new". It was practised before when it was first set up in 1959. Dewan Negara will also be affected under the move.

A motion will be tabled, he said, which would then be approved if it receives the support of the MPs.

"CEO Malaysia: Strategy in Nation-Building" is written by former The Star group editor Hng Hung Yong. It costs RM39.

The book covers various facets of Dr Mahathir's role as the "CEO of Malaysia".

It also discusses the challenges and struggles he faces in leading a plural society and in pushing for modernisation. The book includes Dr Mahathir's strategy and philosophy of nation-building.

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