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Zahir-Parliament

PROPOSAL FOR DEWAN RAKYAT AND DEWAN NEGARA TO SIT IN THE MORNING

Correcting take 2 para 2 to read "Thursday" instead of "Friday"

KUALA LUMPUR, July 23 (Bernama) -- The Parliament Standing Orders Committee will discuss next week a proposal for the Dewan Rakyat to start its sitting in the morning instead of at 2.30pm as is the practice now.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail said today the proposal was for the House to sit for six hours a day in two sessions, from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from 2.30pm to 5.30pm.

"One hour will be allocated for the question-and-answer session and five for tabling and debating bills," he told reporters after launching a book, "CEO Malaysia: Strategy in Nation-Building," here.

Mohamed Zahir said the morning session was expected to be introduced in October when the Budget is tabled.

He said the change in the meeting hours was to ease the burden of Dewan Rakyat staff who had to work overtime whenever the sitting extended into the night.

It was also to give MPs more time to debate the bills, that is five hours daily instead of the current three, he said.

He said the number of days in session would also be reduced when the new schedule was implemented.

The Dewan Rakyat now meets four days a week, from Monday to Thursday, starting at 2.30pm and ending at 6.30pm.

Mohamed Zahir said the change in meeting hours was not something new as the House had sat in the morning when Parliament was first set up in 1959.

Asked whether a bill had to be tabled to accommodate the change, he said all that was needed was to table a motion which would be approved after receiving support from the majority of the MPs.

He said the Dewan Negara was expected to follow suit with the new sitting schedule.

The book, "CEO Malaysia: Strategy in Nation-Building", which costs RM39 a copy, is authored by former The Star group editor Hng Hung Yong.

It discusses the strategies and philosophy of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in building the nation.

-- BERNAMA

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