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Speaker dismisses Kit Siang's private member's motion

DEWAN Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail dismissed Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang's private member's motion, citing that the special sitting was only meant to debate the Bills tabled.

Lim had asked the Speaker to adjourn the House to discuss the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. Lim submitted the motion on Saturday.

Mohamed Zahir said this could not be done as Standing Orders 11(3) allowed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad or the Yang di-Pertua to call for an earlier date than that to which the House is adjourned for a meeting involving public interest. Earlier, the Speaker, in a reply to Karpal Singh (DAP-Jelutong), said it was up to the Director-General of Prisons to decide on the appeal made by him to allow Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Kota Melaka) to attend the two-day sitting.

"The power to allow Guan Eng to attend the sitting rests with the wisdom of the Director-General," he said, adding that he could not do anything.

Karpal had argued that the Speaker had the right to direct the Director-General of Prisons to allow Guan Eng to be present in the Dewan Rakyat.

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