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Speaker orders Teng to leave sitting

SELANGOR State Assembly speaker Datuk Onn Ismail ordered Teng Chang Khim (DAP- Bukit Gasing) to leave the sitting following an argument between them over the motion of support to the Government to retain the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine centre at the Tanjong Pagar railway station in Singapore.

Teng, who got up to debate on the motion moved by Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, said as a patriotic citizen, he supported the Government's stand on the issue.

However, he said the issue should not be discussed at the State Assembly as it fell under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government and the Parliament since it involved foreign affairs.

"The matter should not be touched as it clearly falls under Article 73 and 74 of the Federal Constitution," he added.

Onn, who ordered Teng to be seated, said the motion was only to give support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the issue and thus, there was nothing wrong in discussing it.

Teng immediately got up and said this was the second time within eight months that Abu Hassan had raised motions in support of Dr Mahathir.

"There are more important issues to be debated at the State Assembly rather than the Tanjong Pagar issue. There is the economic crisis, the water issue, rumour-mongering and many others that need to be discussed. Even the expected revenue for the year is now down by 40 per cent, to only RM700 million."

"Investment by foreigners and locals in Selangor has dropped. Johor is now topping the list. I think a motion of no confidence must be passed against Abu Hassan who seems to be keen only in exhibiting his loyalty to Dr Mahathir," said Teng.

Onn intervened and said: "Bukit Gasing must confine himself to the Tanjong Pagar issue. He is deviating to other topics."

However, Teng kept on saying that State issues must be given priority rather than foreign affairs.

When Teng refused to abide by his directive and continued raising other matters, Onn ordered him to leave the sitting under Section 44(2) of the Standing Order.

The motion on the Tanjong Pagar issue was unanimously passed by the assembly. The assembly was adjourned sine die.

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