

13 MAY 1998

Senate-Debate

ZAINUDDIN MAIDIN HITS OUT AT UNGRATEFUL CORPORATE FIGURES

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- A Senator today criticised the attitude of certain "ungrateful" corporate figures including those who went to the extent of taking ministers to court.

Making his maiden speech in the Dewan Negara today, Senator Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said some were so arrogant that they could not be advised even by a minister because they felt that they had the protection of a "bigger" minister.

These corporate figures, refusing to show their respect after having earned all the "benefits" from the government, deserved no forgiveness.

In another scenario, action could be taken on a government officer in conflict with a minister, he said when debating a motion of thanks for Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar for his royal address at the opening of the fourth session of the ninth parliament today.

Zainuddin also chided certain others whom he said had thought fit to make Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the focus of their anger in the present economic situation.

They just would not respect Mahathir for his patriotism and nationalism, said Zainuddin, the former Utusan Melayu Editor-in-Chief who was appointed to the Senate last March.

"There are also the successful Malay entrepreneurs whose main priority is to accumulate all the riches and living a more affluent life than the Hollywood screen stars," he said.

Touching on the economy, Zainuddin said there were also rich Malays involved in the transfer of RM20 billion to foreign banks.

It was a wrong notion to suggest that only non-Malays would pack and leave the country after acquiring the wealth here, he added.

Senator Datuk Ibrahim Ali who joined in the debate called for a "more aggressive" restructuring of the national agriculture policy to ensure that the agriculture sector could be revamped to avoid dependence on food imports.

The government should not focus too much on industrialisation but should revert to agriculture, as the vast tract of idle land could still be used to grow sufficient food, thus saving the RM10 billion annual food imports, he added.

-- BERNAMA

NHD AR SK