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Kit Siang-Parliament

DAP MAY TAKE LEGAL ACTION ON THE CONVENING OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT

PETALING JAYA, Dec 21 (Bernama) -- The DAP is considering legal action to determine whether the 10th Parliament was convened in accordance with the Federal Constitution.

DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang said today the legal action was necessary to set a precedent and sort out the matter to avoid laws passed by Parliament and the status of MPs, including ministers, being challenged in court.

"All laws passed by Parliament which is not convened in accordance with the Constitution open themselves for challenge as to their legality," he told a news conference at the DAP headquarters, here.

Lim said that under the circumstances, the oath of office taken by MPs could also become open for challenge as to whether it had been properly administered because under the law, MPs who do not take their oath of office six month from the first meeting of Parliament are deemed to have vacated their seats.

"So they run the risk of having somebody going to court to challenge the legality of their parliamentary status and this also applies to ministers because they must be MPs before they can become a minister and if somebody takes the matter to court to declare their parliamentary seats vacant, they are no more ministers," he said.

The DAP, he said, would consider all legal implications with regard to the matter because it would have very far-reaching effects.

He said he was speaking on behalf of the DAP and would discuss the matter later with the rest of the Barisan Alternatif members. The other members in the opposition pact are PAS, Keadilan and PRM.

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that Lim was the "mastermind" and "puppet master" behind the pandemonium in Parliament yesterday, he said:

"If Dr Mahathir is right, then I am now even more powerful after being booted out of Parliament in the dirtiest general election in the nation's history than at any time during my 30 years as MP and 25 years as Parliamentary Opposition Leader".

-- BERNAMA

AFY JK