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Parliament-Debate

DAP PREDICTS GENERAL ELECTION AFTER AIDILFITRI

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang today predicted Malaysia's 10th general election will be held in the third week of January 2000, after the Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Lim (DAP-Tanjong) said the general election was unlikely to be held after January as the Barisan Nasional (BN) did not wish to use the latest electoral roll which has 650,000 new voters.

"I believe Parliament would not be dissolved this month because (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr) Mahathir (Mohamad) needed more time to ensure the BN will be able to retain its two-thirds majority," he said in a three-hour speech in debating the Supply Bill 2000 in the Dewan Rakyat here today.

On the admission by former Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) assistant governor Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid of being involved in the payment of more than RM120 million to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and certain individuals and organisations connected with Anwar, Lim said an investigation and an independent audit need to be conducted on BNM, similar to the Bank Bali, Indonesia, probe.

He said Abdul Murad's admission that he had breached rules without being found out had called the integrity of BNM into question.

"His (Abdul Murad's) admission implied that certain BNM officers might have implemented policies detrimental to national interest," he said.

He proposed the setting up of a special task force to look into the bank-merger exercise and financial services sector consolidation and for the task force to come up with its recommendations within three months.

Lim also proposed that the Finance Minister review the selective capital control measures adopted and to abolish them in stages.

He proposed that an allocation of RM1 billion be given, over a five-year period, to 60 private Chinese secondary schools and 1,200 SRK Cina in view of the lack of facilities in such schools and an increase in student enrollment.

Abdul Hadi Awang (PAS-Marang) said the government should review the privatisation policy which he claimed did not benefit the low income group.

"The corporatisation of institutions of higher learning, for example, has burdened students from poor families," he said.

He said education should not be turned into a business by allowing the setting up of too many private colleges.

Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis (BN-Rompin), meanwhile, urged the government to freeze the alleged master accounts of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said to amount to RM3 billion.

He said those implicated by former Bank Negara assistant governor Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid in his statutory declaration released on Thursday should also be investigated.

"We now know where the money come from to pay for the printed materials, poison-pen letters, web sites and to pay schoolboys for activities to defame the government," he said.

The Dewan Rakyat sitting will continue tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

NM/NHA THG