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Farmers and DAP officials in demo

MALACCA, Wed. - A group of 17 pig farmers and DAP members demonstrated outside the State Legislative Assembly building today after a DAP motion on the closure of pig farms in Malacca was aborted due to a lack of quorum.

State Opposition Leader Sim Tong Him (DAP-Bandar Hilir) was scheduled to table his motion immediately after the break. His motion was to call on the State Government to re-consider its decision to close all pig farms in the state.

Sim was unable to proceed as there were only nine assemblymen left in the House while the required quorum was 10.

The demonstrators, led by Sim and Tengkeru Assemblyman, Goh Leong San, wanted Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin to explain why the State Government wanted to close the pig farms.

The stand-off lasted for half an hour before Abu Zahar was escorted by his bodyguard and policemen to his official car before leaving the building.

State Health, Manpower and Consumer Affairs committee chairman, Datuk Wira Gan Boon Leong was also involved in several verbal exchanges with Goh after Abu Zahar left.

State deputy police chief, Assistant Commissioner Ahmad Lihat and Malacca Tengah Internal Security and Public Order Department chief, Deputy Superintendent Nozlan Ismail were seen trying desperately to keep the situation calm.

Sim and Goh had asked Abu Zahar to explain the State Government's decision outside the House after the sitting ended due to the lack of quorum.

Sim said this had been going on for the last 20 State Assembly sittings from the time of former Chief Minister, Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, each time the DAP tried to table its motion.

"The State should be answerable for its action to the people and should not shy away from the responsibilities entrusted to them," he said, adding that this phenomenon only happened in Malacca and not elsewhere.

Sim said he had written to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Nasir Manap over this practice.

"The Government's elected representatives should be kind in listening to our motion and if they do not like it, reject it. However, every time we want to table a motion, they would ask the Assemblymen to leave the building, resulting in the motion not being able to proceed."

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