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State Government irked by local media reports

THE State Government's dissatisfaction over reports by the local media was brought up in the State Assembly yesterday.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, in expressing his frustrations over the reports, said he had ceased reading the daily newspapers.

In response to a supplementary question from Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir (BN-Melor) regarding a study by Universiti Utara Malaysia on working women, Nik Aziz said he was only proposing the matter to ease the burden of working women.

"I'm saddened with the reports published by the mass media on the matter ... they have twisted my words. Since then, I was continuously attacked (by the Press) and it only stopped when Pas produced a newspaper cutting of a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad proposing that women be prohibited from working."

At this juncture, Zulkifli Mamat (Pas-Pulai Chondong) stood up and asked if such a doing (twisting of facts and words) was normal for the Press.

However, Speaker Wan Abdul Rahim Wan Abdullah said the question (by Zulkifli) was irrelevant and need not be answered.

State Social Development, Women affairs and Racial Integration Committee chairman Hassan Muhammad also expressed his dissatisfaction over reports by the local Press, especially on poverty issues.

The local Press, except for the TV3 crew, were allowed to cover the State Assembly sitting.

Members of the Press entering the Kota Darulnaim compound were stopped by guards and were asked which organisations they represented before being allowed in. TV3 reporters Nik Mahadi Nik Hassan and Jaffry Azman and cameraman Hanapi Mat were not allowed in.

(END)