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Parliament-accusation

BACKBENCHERS UPSET OVER FADZIL'S REMARKS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- Some government backbenchers were clearly upset over Opposition leader Datuk Fadzil Noor's remarks during the debate on the royal address in the Dewan Rakyat here.

Fadzil had taken to task some Umno leaders and members over their comments on the stoning of adulterers and the cutting of the hands of thieves as provided in Islam. He said this was an insult to Islam.

The PAS MP for Pendang then read an article in MASSA magazine where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad explained why Malaysia could not impose such punishments.

At this juncture, Education Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Dr Mahadzir Mohd Khir stood up, demanding clarification from Fadzil. He accused the opposition leader of insinuating that Dr Mahathir was insulting Islam.

Mahadzir (BN-Sungai Petani) wanted Fadzil to withdraw the remarks, contending that it was against the Standing Order to cast bad suspicions on another member of the Dewan.

But Fadzil refused, saying that what he was only reading the fact as it was published in the magazine.

Three government backbenchers Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Mohd Jarjis (Rompin), Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad (Parit Sulong) and Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (Batang Lupar) then stood up and urged Deputy Speaker Datuk Lim Si Cheng to take action against Fadzil.

The situation got out of hand as the three backbenchers were involved in verbal exchange with Syed Azman Syed Ahmad Nawawi (PAS-Kuala Terengganu) who supported Fadzil.

Mohamad Sabu (PAS-Kuala Kedah) brought order to the Dewan when he proposed that question of whether Fadzil should withdraw his remarks or not be referred to the Select Committee headed by Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail.

Dr Jamaluddin agreed with the proposal.

--BERNAMA

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