

12 JUL 2000

Parliament-Motion

MOTION TO DISCUSS ALLEGED CORRUPT PRACTICE BY MAHATHIR REJECTED

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12 (Bernama) -- The speaker of the Dewan Rakyat today rejected a PAS motion to discuss an alleged corrupt practice by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The motion, tabled by PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor, called for an adjournment of proceedings to discuss a claim that Dr Mahathir obstructed the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) chief from discharging his duties.

Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail said although the matter was specific and of public interest it was not urgent.

He said as the alleged act had been reported to police, he was confident it would be investigated according to normal procedures.

Fadzil said Dr Mahathir had in 1998 allegedly obstructed Datuk Shafie Yahya, when he was the ACA director-general, from investigating the then director-general of the Economic Planning Unit.

The Opposition Leader said if the violation of the ACA's freedom and integrity was not dealt with, there would be an erosion of transparency and justice in the country.

--BERNAMA

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