

29/10/2000

Pas MPs criticised for their behaviour

Patrick Sennyah; Lee Shi-Ian

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Various quarters today criticised the behaviour of Pas Members of Parliament yesterday during the tabling of the 2001 Budget by Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin.

They said the Pas members had no respect for the august House.

Backbenchers Club president Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis described their action as "disgraceful and unbecoming".

He said as an MP, one must respect and revere the House and adhere to its rules and regulations.

"The Pas members were no better than street louts bringing such behaviour into a respected and established institution.

"It is rather sad the Opposition's action is contrary to what they preach, and they do not uphold good values."

Jamaluddin said Pas owed the public an explanation and apology for its conduct in the Parliament yesterday.

"Pas can always debate the Budget after it has been presented as ample opportunity will be given. There is no reason to express opinions in a manner which is only fit for the streets," he added.

Umno Youth deputy chief Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir said the unruly behaviour of several opposition backbenchers in Parliament revealed that they did not possess the calibre or credibility needed to become leaders.

He said these backbenchers seemed to have forgotten that the tabling of the Budget was being telecast live and everyone could see their behaviour.

"That is all they have ever been good at, making noise and never doing anything fruitful for the people," he said after meeting with participants of Kembarasiswa 2000 at Putra World Trade Centre.

Abdul Aziz said the jeering was uncalled for and it was clear that they had no place in Parliament in the first place.

Umno Youth secretary Zulkifli Alwi described the Opposition behaviour as disgraceful and said it was against the sense of decency and responsibility MPs were supposed to have.

"The Pas MPs' action was deplorable and unbecoming of supposedly members of the august House.

"What kind of example are they showing to the young generation? They should be ashamed of themselves for displaying such disrespect for the rules of Parliament," he said.

"Looking for cheap publicity and mileage," was what Umno Youth Exco member Shaziman Abu Mansor had to say about the 10-minute uproar.

"The action was rude and uncalled for. If they really have want to, they can always take the Government to court (over the special payment to the people of Terengganu rather than payment of oil royalty to the Terengganu government).

"Unfortunately, they only made a lot of noise which was embarrassing and does not befit their status as MPs."

He said there were rules which had to be adhered to.

"MPs can only stand up and speak with the permission of the Speaker."

He said the lack of respect shown by the Opposition was shameful because in the past 10 years, no one had interrupted the Finance Minister's Budget presentation.

Shaziman, who is MP for Tampin, said instead of displaying such behaviour, the Opposition should unite and condemn the action of Parti Keadilan Nasional Youth chief Ezam Mohd Noor who had said openly that he

had tarnished the name of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the United States and Europe.

MCA vice-president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn described the action of the Pas MPs as uncalled for because time would be allocated for a debate on the Budget.

"The tradition of the Budget speech is that only the Finance Minister is allowed to speak," he said.

(END)