

Fadzil wants more time to study 8MP

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One day to scrutinise OPP3 used as ammunition for attack again

Opposition Leader Datuk Fadzil Noor urged the Dewan Rakyat to give-MPs more time to study the upcoming 8th Malaysia Plan.

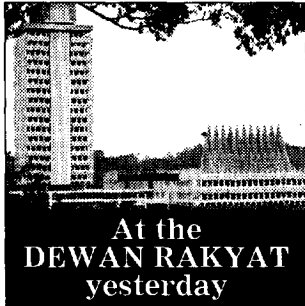
He again criticised the house for giving members only one day to study the 3rd Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3), which was unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday.

The speaker should use his discretion to allow the 8th Malaysia Plan to be distributed earlier even though there is no provision in the Standing Order.

"If a similar situation happens in the future, then the Alternative Front will take stern action," he said.

Fadzil said the house would merely be rubber-stamping a document if its members are not given enough time to study it.

The three days given to debate the OPP3 were enough



compared to the time given to debate the budget, he said.

Yesterday, Fadzil, being the Opposition Leader, was given 45 minutes by Deputy Speaker, Datuk Lim Si Cheng for his debate whereas the others were given 20 minutes.

He said the objective of the OPP3, covering the period from this year to 2010, should emphasise more on social development or be more human-centred instead of focusing on materialistic

development.

Fadzil said poverty is still obvious, particularly in the rural areas despite the country going through rapid development. He said in urban areas those living below the poverty line is 7.5%, whereas those living in the rural area is at 12.4%.

"The fall in commodity prices due to the economic recession also resulted in the poverty rate increasing compared to the official rate."

He said the poverty rate among the bumiputra community was higher compared to other ethnic races in the rural areas.

"There is still a large gap between the average income between the rural and urban community.

"The average income of the bumiputra community is lower compared to that of the other communities," he said.

Fadzil said the average income among the various states also differs.

He welcomed an increase in the equity to be held by the Indian community from 1.5% to 3%.

"The increase finally arrived even though it has been late in coming," he said, adding the Indian community has long been neglected.