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Parliament-Commotion

DEWAN RAKYAT ADJOURNED FOR 10 MINUTES FOLLOWING COMMOTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- There were commotions in the Dewan Rakyat when Information Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Zainuddin Maidin was addressing the house today.

Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail was eventually forced to adjourn proceedings for about 10 minutes at 12.27pm.

Zainuddin, who was replying to points raised in the debate on the 2002 Supply Bill for the ministry, touched on the role of RTM and print media when several opposition MPs questioned why the media were unfair to the opposition.

"It's not true that we don't give coverage to the opposition," he said. Hearing this, Mohd Apandi Mohamad (PAS-Jeli) said: "Lies, lies"

The situation got worse when Zainuddin claimed that the DAP was misleading the Chinese community on the Islamic state issue.

Five opposition MPs stood up at the same time seeking clarification on the statement followed by an exchange of words between them and Zainuddin.

The five MPs are Mohd Apandi, Chong Eng (DAP-Bukit Mertajam), Chow Kon Yeow (DAP-Tanjong), Husam Musa (PAS-Kubang Kerian) and Muhammad Mustafa (Keadilan-Peringat).

"It's enough, honourable members...This matter will have no end. He (Zainuddin) is not giving way," said Zahir.

Zainuddin then continued with his address but another commotion broke out when he accused an opposition newspaper of publishing a headline that discredited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Several opposition MPs asked him to produce the newspaper article he was referring to.

When more than 10 MPs from both the government and opposition were involved in an exchange of words, Zahir ordered a 10-minuted adjournment.

When the house resumed its session, Zainuddin spoke on press freedom in the country.

-- BERNAMA

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