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Parliament-Debate

DR MAHATHIR URGED TO SACK NON-PERFORMING MINISTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- A government backbencher today urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to sack ministers who do not perform their duties.

Datuk Bung Moktar Radin (BN-Kinabatangan) said the call was made sincerely with the aim to "rectify whatever is wrong".

"We at the grassroots level have received many reports on the existence of this group that goes around making promises here and there but does not fulfil them," he said when debating the Supplementary Supply Bill (No.2) 2001 in the Dewan Rakyat.

Datuk Mohamad Haji Aziz (BN-Sri Gading) then got up to support Bung Moktar, saying that there were ministers who did not discharge their duties although there were also the dedicated ones.

"Sometimes you don't even see their faces in Parliament. If there's a (cabinet) reshuffle, just change these people. There are many more who are qualified, he said.

Several opposition MPs tried to butt in but Bung Moktar did not give them a chance, saying: "This shows our sincerity in Parliament. If it's wrong we must correct it."

He said there were also government officers who were so powerful that they ignored directives from the ministers or their superior officers.

"If there are (such people), we'll report and discard them. They are like buffaloes smearing mud on everyone.

"I ask the prime minister to review the government structure from A to Z. Carefully examine ministers or department heads who flout directives to the extent of causing the abandonment of projects that need to be implemented," he said.

Datuk Dr Yusof Haji Yacob (BN-Sipitang) suggested that government servants who are efficient in handling projects be assigned to them.

"If there are implementation procedures that can delay the projects, replace them with better ones," he said.

He also noted that the debate on the bill which began yesterday had drawn arguments between the government and opposition MPs, especially those from PAS, on the US-Afghanistan issue.

"We, as Muslims, irrespective of party, should sit down and share our views and come up with the best suggestions on how to save the Afghan Muslims who are innocent," he said.

"It's pointless to demonstrate," he said, referring to PAS's move to hold demonstrations and special prayers outside the United States embassy in Jalan Tun Razak last Friday as futile.

Husam Musa (Pas-Kubang Kerian) defended the party's actions saying that they had gone to the embassy to hand over a memorandum protesting the US airstrikes on Afghanistan.

However, he said, before PAS president Datuk Haji Fadzil Nor could hand over the memorandum police had shot teargas and ordered them to disperse.

Ronald Kiandee (BN-Beluran) proposed that the government review the election laws to keep up with the times.

Among the matters that needed a re-look were the campaigning process and the issue of phantom voters, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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