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Exercise caution when asking for clarifications, MPs told

DEPUTY Speaker Datuk Muhamad Abdullah had to repeatedly advise MPs from the Government and Opposition to exercise caution when asking for clarifications to avoid a commotion in the House.

Series of arguments took place when Opposition leader Datuk Fadzil Noor said that the Eighth Malaysia Plan tabled by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday was indah khabar dari rupa (made to look better than what it actually was).

Fadzil said what was of importance was not the allocation, but its implementation which should be transparent, ethical and responsible.

At this juncture Datuk Dr Hassan Mohd Ali (Pas-Parit Buntar) stood up and asked for clarification.

"Is there transparency if the declaration of assets by the Government is only made in front of Dr Mahathir and not to the people at large?"

Hassan was quoting a report which he had got from the Internet.

This prompted Datuk Jamaluddin Jarjis (BN-Rompin) and Parliamentary secretary in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Noh Omar to stand up and challenge Hassan, saying that such reports could not be used in Parliament as it was similar to surat layang (poison pen letters).

"You can't bring such unsubstantiated information into the House," said Jamaluddin.

Hassan said he was asking for clarification from Fadzil, not Jamaluddin or Noh.

Jamaluddin and Noh then raised a point of order to stop Hassan from using the Internet report and this caused an exchange of words among them.

Hassan further said that he only wanted to clarify a point on how rich the Cabinet Ministers were.

Jamaluddin said it was not relevant as what was being debated was the Eighth Malaysia Plan.

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