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Parliament-Debate

PETRONAS AND PROTON URGED TO HELP LOCAL COMPANIES BECOME WORLD CLASS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysian corporate giants like Petronas and Proton should help guide more local companies to become "world class", said a government backbencher.

Datuk Mohamed Sarit Yusoh (BN-Temerloh) said this will be in line with the objectives of the third Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3) -- one of which was to prepare the country for globalisation and international competition.

"Malaysian companies must adopt a global outlook and not be inward looking," he said in debating the OPP3 and the National Visionary Policy tabled in the Dewan Rakyat today by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Mohamed Sarit also urged Proton to emulate Petronas in venturing overseas by seeking strategic partners abroad.

"This is to ensure Proton can compete internationally," he said.

"It would be pointless if Proton could only compete in the domestic market."

As for local companies, he urged them not to shun the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) field.

Mohamed Sarit called on the government to make public the financial position of statutory bodies such as the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Tabung Haji (the pilgrims fund board) to avoid misguided perceptions.

"We should not be afraid to report profits or losses as no business venture is guaranteed to make a profit," he said.

Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) wanted the government to redefine poverty in the country as the existing definition is no longer suitable in view of changes over time.

"The aim of eradicating poverty, irrespective of race, is honourable. But, we need a new definition of poverty," he said.

Thong Fah Chong (BN-Ipoh Timur) called for the introduction of a law to compel children, once they start working, to look after their parents.

"Cases of parents being left on their own in their old age are becoming more and more frequent," he said.

"More often than not, parents end up in old folks' homes."

The Dewan Rakyat sitting continues tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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