

25/04/2001

`Assemblyman in close proximity case'

reports on "Penang State Assembly" by T. Thant; Ismail Hashim
THE House was shocked to hear a claim by Danny Law Heng Kiang (DAP-Batu Lanchang) that a State Assemblyman was caught for tangkap basah (close proximity) in a hotel here early this month.

He said the assemblyman's sexual escapade was discovered after his wife hired a private investigator to check on him.

"The matter was revealed to me in a letter dated April 7," he told the House when debating on the motion of thanks to the Yang di-Pertua Negeri for his opening address.

Law, who declined to disclose any details on the assemblyman or the sender of the letter, said a copy of the letter was sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The opposition member also caused a stir when he alleged that the wife of another State Assemblyman had been caught gambling in Bagan Dalam, near Butterworth.

Meanwhile, Law, claiming the Penang Development Corporation was run by inefficient State ExcOs, suggested that the board of directors be replaced by ordinary people.

The ExcOs had caused the PDC to lose RM18 million in public funds when its joint project in Bayan Bay was stopped, he said.

He was also puzzled at the PDC's move in taking out a RM120 million loan when it has the funds to carry out projects in 1999.

Earlier, State Opposition Leader Abdul Rahman Abdul Kadir (Keadilan-Penanti) praised Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir as a loving and caring leader.

He said Hamdan, who will retire at the end of the month, had always shown his concern for the people irrespective of their race, beliefs or political inclination.

Abdul Rahman also asked why some 24 squatters who had been offered free low-cost units in 1985 were now asked by the State Government to pay for the houses.

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