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Parliament-Debate

RESEARCH DIVISION PROPOSED FOR PARLIAMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional Member of Parliament for Tambun Datuk Ahmad Husni today proposed that Parliament set up a Research Division to help MPs do research and obtain information.

Parliament as the supreme law making body should have a facility where the full information could be obtained as information from the mass media alone was inadequate, he said when taking part in the debate on the Budget for next year in the Dewan Rakyat.

He said such Research Divisions in countries such as Canada, the United States and Australia had greatly helped MPs obtain research materials and contributed indirectly to quality debates in the House.

Questioning the effectiveness of the Civics Bureau, he said it was still using outdated modules with which course participants had difficulty.

Mastika Junaidah Husin (BN-Arau) who touched on the allocations for Putrajaya suggested that usherettes be appointed at the various offices in the Federal administrative capital.

This was because the many buildings and offices would tend to confuse a visitor and make her lose her way.

She had lost her way on several occasions when visiting offices in Putrajaya.

She also proposed that the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) be set up at state level to help the Menteri Besar plan the development of his state.

Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad (BN-Parit Sulong) proposed that membership of the Election Commission (EC) be expanded to include Islamic leaders as they could act as advisors on issues of Islam in political speeches.

He also said the proposed amendments to the election laws next year include provisions to check tendencies that could divide the people during the election campaign.

Meanwhile Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar (PAS-Tumpat) proposed that the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) set up during the height of the economic slowdown in 1998 be dissolved.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also the Finance Minister should be given the full responsibility to manage the finances and there was no need for the NEAC.

He also proposed a Third Deputy Speaker from among the ranks of the opposition be appointed for the Dewan Rakyat.

The Dewan will sit again on Nov 19.

-- BERNAMA

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