

02 APR 2001

Parliament-Postponement

SITTING INTERRUPTED FOR 20 MINUTES

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- The sitting of the Dewan Rakyat here today was interrupted for about 20 minutes when the opposition was involved in a heated exchange with the government.

The DAP Members of Parliament (MPs) wanted the tabling of the Third Outline Perspective Plan (2001-2010) (RRJP-3) and the National Visionary Policy scheduled for tomorrow be postponed.

The session in the afternoon was supposed to start with Deputy Information Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus continuing his debate from yesterday on the motion of thanks for the royal address but Kerk Kim Hock (DAP-Kota Melaka) stood up instead to seek explanation on the delay in distributing the RRJP-3 documents to the MPs.

Kerk also wanted changes to tomorrow's order paper where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was scheduled to table the RRJP-3 as the MPs only received their documents at noon today.

Kerk said the MPs needed at least three days to read and understand its contents before debating on it.

"It (RRJP-3) is a 10-year plan, not a three-minute Maggie mee," he said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim stood up and said that Rule 14(1) of the Standing Order quoted by Kerk did not say that a document should be distributed for a specific period of time before being tabled in the House.

On hearing this, Deputy Speaker Datuk Lim Si Cheng then invited Khalid to continue his winding-up speech.

This caused several DAP MPs such as Tan Kok Wai (Cheras), Lim Hock Seng (Bagan), Chong Eng (Bukit Mertajam) and Fong Po Kuan (Batu Gajah) to stand up, expressing their dissatisfaction.

When Khalid and Tan started getting involved in a heated exchange, Lim urged all parties to remain calm and continue with the business of the day.

-- BERNAMA

NM HS ABG