

# 'It's okay to sell VCDs on sittings'

STAR

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THERE is no law stopping the distribution of VCDs on Parliament meetings because the proceedings are public property.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Dr Mohamed Zahir Ismail said it would be unreasonable to forbid it because the sittings were widely reported in the press.

He said this when asked to comment on "unofficial" VCDs found in night markets, which featured the speeches of several opposition MPs.

Earlier, Datuk Husni Hanadzlah (BN - Tambun) had voiced his displeasure over the VCDs, saying the police should probe such "leaks".

"Official statements from Parliament should only come

from Parliament. Otherwise, what is the significance of this august House?

"No one should mar the dignity of the House by such leaks," he said, when debating the Members of Parliament (Remuneration) (Amendment) Bill.

Kerk Kim Hock (DAP - Kota Melaka) pointed out that under the Bill, the monthly salary of the Prime Minister would be RM20,751.50.

He said the Prime Minister was also getting an entertainment allowance of RM18,865 a month. "Why is this allowance almost equal to that of his salary?" he asked.

A written reply from Minister in the Prime Minister's De-

partment, Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, given to Kerk yesterday stated that the Deputy Prime Minister was entitled to a monthly entertainment allowance of RM15,215, ministers RM12,320 and deputy ministers RM6,000.

The Prime Minister is also given a further monthly allowance of RM8,500, the DPM (RM6,700) and ministers (RM4,000).

Both the PM and the DPM are also provided with domestic help. Ministers received RM2,500 monthly for this purpose while deputy ministers get RM1,500.

Ministers are given a monthly housing allowance of RM4,000, while deputy ministers get RM3,000.