

# Four motions for RM10 salary cut

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■ By FOO YEE PING

A RECORD of sorts was made in the Dewan Rakyat in the past week. Four motions were submitted, calling for a RM10 cut in the salary of four ministers.

The targets were the Ministers of Education (Tan Sri Musa Mohamad), Information (Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob), Science, Technology and Environment (Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding), and Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung.

The RM10 cut is a token sum, a symbolic act aimed at embarrassing the target.

"It is like calling for a vote of no confidence against that person," said Speaker Tun Dr Mohamed Zahir Ismail.

The perpetrators were, of course, opposition MPs. Musa's detractor was Dr Syed Azman Syed Ahmad Nawawi (PAS - Kuala Terengganu), while Husam Musa (PAS - Kubang Kerian) was gunning for Khalil.

The motion against Chor was filed by Kerk Kim Hock (DAP - Kota Melaka) while his DAP counterpart Teresa Kok of Seputeh was aiming for Law.

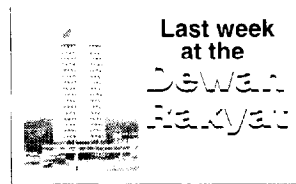
Two of the motions (from Dr Syed Azman and Kerk) had been debated and were overruled last week.

Zahir said these motions should be taken seriously.

"You should not submit it merely because you are looking for a chance to speak; or you are seeking publicity. In other Parliaments, these sorts of motions are not taken lightly," he said.

Monday's debate on Dr Syed Azman's motion was acrimonious with much name-calling and accusations.

The MPs labelled one



another traitors, even calling each other "rats."

When Fong Po Kuan (DAP - Batu Gajah) alluded to the Barisan MPs as being "a mouse" for not daring to state their objection to the plan to teach Science and Mathematics in English, Datuk Bung Moktar Radin (BN - Kinaabatangan) replied that the real rats were in the DAP.

"And female rats love to make noise," he quipped.

But it was Dr Syed Azman's use of the word *laknat* (condemn) that had the Umno MPs suitably horrified, for it was a curse far worse than "damn you".

"One day, our grandchildren will *laknat* Umno leaders for supporting the Education Minister," he said, when concluding his motion on Musa for implementing the move to use English to teach the two subjects.

It was an eloquent Dr Syed Azman, albeit an emotional one, who repeatedly accused Umno of betraying the Malay race and called Musa a deadwood minister and a yes-man to the Prime Minister.

His rivals hit back, saying it was PAS that had betrayed the Malays by being a stumbling block to the future of education in Malaysia.

The debate spilled over to the next day, becoming even more hostile that Deputy Speaker Datuk Muhammad Abdullah had to call for a 10-minute time-out.

Kerk's motion against Chor on Wednesday was a much

tamer affair. There were the usual quibbles but both sides did not turn on each other like wounded tigers.

The matter being debated was the way in which almost 29,000 traffic summonses had been cancelled by the authorities as claimed by Kerk.

Kerk had been very persistent about the issue, although the Home Ministry had explained its side of the story many times.

His other matter of contention was the police arrest of DAP leaders who had been carrying out the party's "No to 929" campaign.

(Incidentally, the Hansard recorded that as "*no tunai-tunai*".)

The campaign is DAP's crusade against the Islamic country pronouncement made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sept 29 last year.

(Kerk's use of the word "lackadaisical" became "like a die sicker" in the Hansard, while "despicable" turned out as "depreciable".)

Datuk Mohamad Aziz (BN - Sri Gading) said the opposition was merely eyeing cheap publicity.

"Also, it seems that the DAP is alone in this motion," he said, referring to the absence of PAS MPs in the House during the debate. One PAS MP walked in only at the tail end of the affair.

Kok's motion against Law is due to be debated on Nov 5, but the more enthralling one would seem to be the motion against Khalil, which is scheduled for Thursday.

As PAS MPs love to pick on the Information Ministry, they are unlikely to give the ministry's representative an easy time. So, the drama continues.