

31 OCT 2002

Parliament-Motion

ANOTHER MOTION ON RM10 SALARY CUT REJECTED

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- The Dewan Rakyat today rejected yet another motion to deduct a minister's salary by RM10, this time the one directed at Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob for allegedly failing to discharge his duties properly.

Deputy Speaker Datuk Lim Si Cheng made the decision after the "no" voice overwhelmed the "yes" voice to the motion.

It is the third such motion, raised under Standing Orders 66.9, to have been rejected at the current sitting. The earlier ones were against Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad and Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung.

Deputy Information Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus, when winding up the debate on the motion tabled by Husam Musa (PAS-Kubang Kerian), said the opposition was seeking cheap publicity and trying to vent their anger on the government.

Expressing regret over their prejudice against Radio Television Malaysia (RTM), Khalid questioned whether they understood the real philosophy behind Standing Orders 66.9.

"Clause 66(9) has been abused by the opposition for their own cheap political interest. They are abusing democracy...their action has tarnished the supreme House of the country," said Khalid.

A similar motion against the Science, Technology and Environment Minister has yet to be debated.

On RTM's role, he said the station had explained to the public the truth voiced out by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the politics of slander and hatred practised by the opposition.

"RTM did not make up these issues and all its programmes were based on facts. All the videoclips shown were (based on) those distributed by PAS itself," he said.

Khalid said it was unfair of the opposition to hit out at the Information Minister because the deputy minister and other senior officials of the ministry were also responsible if there were any shortcomings.

He said it would be more appropriate to deduct the salary of the Opposition Leader for making irrelevant speeches and those of other opposition members for their irresponsible behaviour like seeking to cut a minister's salary.

Husam, in his motion, said RTM's programmes were not viewed by many people as their content quality was inferior compared to that of other stations like TV3.

The motion was debated by three members -- Datuk Mohamad Aziz (BN-Sri Gading), Mohamad Sabu (PAS-Kuala Kedah) and Datuk Dr Yusof Yacob (BN-Sipitang).

-- BERNAMA

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