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Abdullah-MLA

TWO BN PENANG MLA LIKELY TO BE EXPELLED FOR DEFYING BN WHIP

KEPALA BATAS, Penang, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the two Barisan Nasional Members of the Penang Legislative Assembly who defied the BN whip may be expelled.

He said Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi) had committed a big offence by choosing to be neutral when a vote was taken through name call on an opposition motion in the House yesterday.

They had breached party discipline, Abdullah said after presenting Hari Raya aid to the poor, orphans and single mothers in the Bertam area here.

"I have directed Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon as the State BN Chairman and Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Helmi Yahya as the BN whip in the House to send an immediate report to the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is the National BN Chairman," he said.

The motion moved by the DAP member for Batu Lancang Law Heng Kiang urged the government to postpone construction of the Penang Outer Ring Road, which he claimed was causing inconvenience to the people.

In the motion Law also proposed that work on the project begin only after completion of the Jelutong Expressway.

The motion was hotly debated and Dr Koh explained that the Penang Outer Ring Road was a Federal project and state funds were not involved.

At the end of the debate, House Speaker Datuk Yahya Abdul Hamid called for a division while the Opposition Leader in the House Abdul Rahman Abdul Kadir (Keadilan-Penanti) proposed that the vote be taken through individual name call.

When this was done, Lim and Tan, both from the MCA, elected to remain neutral while 19 other BN members voted against it.

The motion was backed by only the three opposition members and was defeated.

Abdullah said he met Dr Koh here this morning and directed him and Dr Hilmi to send the report to the Prime Minister.

"The action of the two members is very serious from the aspect of party discipline," he said.

There had been a precedent and the punishment was expulsion, he added.

Di KUALA LUMPUR, MCA Secretary-General Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh declined comment on the possibility of the two members being expelled for not supporting the BN.

"No comments...I have not been informed of this matter," he told reporters after attending the MCA Education Bureau meeting at Wisma MCA.

-- BERNAMA

AT AZZ AAM