

10 APR 2003

Parliament-Adjourned

DEWAN RAKYAT ADJOURNS SINE DIE AFTER 20-DAY SITTING

KUALA LUMPUR, April 10 (Bernama) -- The Dewan Rakyat adjourned sine die today after sitting for 20 days since March 10.

During the first meeting of the fifth session of the 10th Parliament, the Dewan Rakyat, among others, passed two motions on the review of electoral boundaries and creation of new parliamentary and state seats for all states, except Sarawak, which were tabled simultaneously.

The motions, passed by block voting, saw 144 MPs voting in favour of the motions which propose to create 25 parliamentary and 63 state seats.

More than half of the 41 opposition members staged a walk-out before voting began in protest against the motions, alleging that the government tabled them in haste.

On March 24, the Dewan Rakyat approved a motion condemning the unilateral military action on Iraq led by the US and its allies tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The 193-seat Dewan Rakyat, which allocated one day to debate the motion, approved it by adopting seven resolutions.

Malaysia, among others, strongly condemned the military action on Iraq and called for the March 20 invasion to be stopped immediately.

The MPs, including opposition members, at their meeting on March 11 unanimously condemned whatever form of US-led military action even though with the endorsement of the United Nations Security Council when they passed the motion moved by Backbenchers' Club Chairman Datuk Mohd Zin Mohamed, who is also Barisan Nasional MP for Shah Alam.

The Dewan Rakyat today expressed its condolences to the Iraqis, who were killed, in defending the country against the aggressors.

The Muslim MPs recited the Al-Fatihah while the non-Muslim parliamentarians observed a minute's silence in honour of the departed souls.

The Bills passed in this session are:

- * Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill 2003
- * National Land Code (Validation) Bill 2003
- * Supplementary Supply (2002) Bill 2003
- * Moneylenders (Amendment) Bill 2003
- * Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill 2003
- * Prison (Amendment) Bill 2003
- * Employees Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill 2003
- * Labuan Offshore Securities Industry (Amendment) Bill 2003

The Dewan Rakyat also passed the Second Schedule of the Financial Procedure Act 1957 to set up a trust fund for poor students.

Also approved was the motion to increase Malaysia's contribution to the International Development Association by US\$47,450.53 or RM180,312.

-- BERNAMA

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