

Govt's alleged overspend draws flak from Pakatan reps

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The Pakatan Rakyat MPs today launched an onslaught on the government's expenditure of double the allowable contingency funds when the Dewan Rakyat debated the 2011 Supplementary Supply Bill tabled by Deputy Finance Minister Donald Lim.

Lim appeared in the House today to seek approval for the government's extra expenditure of RM10.29 billion on administration and RM1.99 billion on development last year.

NONEZooming into the contingency funds under the bill, Azan Ismail (PKR-Indera Mahkota) (right) said the Budget 2011 only allocated RM1.5 billion on the area, but the government and its agencies have used a total of RM3.138 billion.

"I would like to know why there is a shortfall of RM1.755 billion? Where did they get the money?" he said.

"How could the government spend something which is not approved by the House?" he asked.

Lim responded that he will look into the matter, but the Pakatan lawmakers continued to demand a debate on the issue.

This was followed by N Gobalakrisnan's (Ind-Padang Serai) constant interruptions during Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim's (PKR-Permatang Pauh) speech on the matter, prompting deputy speaker Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar to suspend him from the House until the end of the day.

Dzulkefly Ahmad (PAS-Kuala Selangor), at a press conference later, said that the opposition had estimated the RM3.138 billion total based on the ministries' records in the bill.

He said Pakatan will look into pursuing legal action on this if there are strong grounds.

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