

Pakatan slams gov't for rushing through Bills

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The government has been very "inconsiderate" by rushing eight Bills through on the last day of the current sitting of Parliament, the DAP says.

selangor dap congress 2011 teresa kokIncensed by Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department VK Liew's request to Dewan Rakyat deputy speaker Ronald Kiandee to bulldoze the Bills by tonight, Seputeh MP Teresa Kok said:

"Many MPs are not around but they are rushing the Bills through, including the important Bills."

Several critical amendments were tabled yesterday and last week, including major changes to the Printing Presses and Publications Act (PPPA), the Universities and University Colleges Act (UUCA), the corresponding Private Higher Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill 2012 and the Educational Institutions (Discipline) (Amendment) Bill 2012.

"They are going to bulldoze the Bills through because the general election is coming soon... (if not) why do it on the last day?" Kok told reporters at the Parliament lobby.

The other Bills slated for debate today are the Election Offences (Amendment) Bill 2012, Jasa Perkasa Persekutuan (Remembrance Allowance) Bill 2012, Pingat Tentera Udara (Remembrance Allowance) Bill 2012 and Capital Markets and Services (Amendment) Bill 2012.

'BN's selling points for election'

Kok accused the government of "taking Parliament for granted" and "using it as a rubber stamp".

She had earlier stood up to object to Liew. However, Kiandee ignored her call and asked the deputy minister to table the motions.

"How can we debate so many Bills? This is a serious matter," said a fuming Kok, but this argument was shot down by BN backbenchers and the motions were adopted.

Besides the eight Bills, the House will also debate five Finance Ministry motions.

Kota Melaka DAP MP Sim Tong Him said the amendments to the law would likely be used as the BN's "selling points" in the polls, widely speculated to be called before the next sitting of Parliament due in June.

"This shows how desperate the BN is... we had (the) whole month (but) they never discussed it. This just goes to show that the prime minister has fulfilled his pledges before the election," DAP Segambut MP Lim Lip Eng said.

'All MPs given notice earlier'

Met by reporters at the Parliament lobby, Liew said the MPs have been given "prior notice" on the eight Bills slotted for today.

"No such thing as bulldozed... all the MPs have been given notice on the Bills earlier... so how can it be bulldozed? It has been stated in the Order Paper."

Asked if there is sufficient time to discuss the Bills thoroughly, he said: "Time has been wasted because some MPs are talking on issues not related to the Bill (they are debating)... they talk of so many unrelated issues, I don't I have to elaborate."

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