

Perak assembly: BN and PAS reps to face censure
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A government backbencher and an opposition state assemblyperson were referred to the Rights and Privileges Committee today for uttering allegedly misleading remarks during the Perak legislative assembly sitting.

While debating the 2011 Supply Bill, Khalil Idham Lim Abdullah (PAS-Titi Serong) said that a state assemblyperson from Umno had employed a bomoh to cast a spell on the state assembly on May 7 last year.

This was allegedly done prior to the sitting which later saw the forceful ouster of then Speaker V Sivakumar (DAP-Tronoh) and later replaced with R Ganesan.

Khalid Idham later refused Ganesan's request to name the state assemblyperson because this would cause the person to face public humiliation.

Following this, Mohammad Zahir Abdul Khalid (BN-Kamunting) moved a motion under Article 36 (3) (a) and Article 36 (3) (b) of the Standing Orders to refer Khalid Idham to the committee. The motion was seconded by Ramli Zahari (BN-Manong) and accepted by Ganesan.

Article 36 (3) (a) of the Standing Orders states that a member of the House shall be responsible for the accuracy of any statement and the contents of his speech.

Article 36 (3) (b) states that any member of the House found in contravention of this can be referred to the Rights and Privileges Committee, with the consent of the Speaker.

Umno man hauled up

Khalil Idham later told Malaysiakini that he will name the state assemblyperson concerned during the committee hearing.

Several hours later, while Mohd Daud Mohd Yusof (BN-Selama) was debating the same Bill, Hasbullah Osman (BN-Temenggor) interjected and claimed that the Pakatan Rakyat administration in Selangor was corrupt.

Chang Lih Kang (PKR-Teja) immediately demanded Hasbullah retract this but the latter refused, even after Ganesan ordered him to do so twice.

Chang then tabled a motion to refer Hasbullah to the Rights and Privileges Committee under the same provisions applied on Khalil Idham. This was seconded by Chan Ming Kai (PKR-Simpang Pulai) and accepted by Ganesan.

Hasbullah is also a member of the Rights and Privileges Committee.

At a press conference later, Ganesan said that as the chairperson of the Rights and Privileges Committee, he will fix a hearing date after the current sitting ends tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin told his own press conference that Hasbullah should have been suspended from the House for his conduct.

He said the same standards should have been applied as in the case of S Kesavan who was suspended on Tuesday for the entire sitting.

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