

Speaker rejects bid to debate 'unilateral' censure of Anwar
Malaysiakini.com
Disember 8, 2010

An emergency motion to question the intention of Parliament's rights and privileges committee's decision to censure Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim without calling for his defence was rejected today.

NONEOpposition parliamentarian Azmin Ali (PKR-Gombak, right) interrupted the debates at the committee-level of Supply Bill 2011 to table the urgent motion under Standing Order 18(1).

Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia said that the decision of the committee has not yet been tabled in Parliament, therefore the motion was not urgent.

Azmin refused, however, to accept the rejection. He was followed by other opposition MPs who argued with Pandikar for over 50 minutes.

The Speaker then ordered the House secretary to read the next order of the day, but to no avail because of the din raised by the MPs who had continued arguing.

Beacues of this, Pandikar suspended every opposition MP who was then standing until the House reconvenes after lunch at 2.30pm.

Opposition parliamentarians walked out of Dewan Rakyat in protest.

It was reported last week that the powerful rights and privileges committee would not listen to any more witnesses, including Anwar, and would decide on Anwar's fate based on a letter of explanation from international public relations firm Apco Worldwide.

NONEThe government in April had urged action against Anwar (left) after he criticised its 'One Malaysia' slogan coined by Apco.

Anwar claimed the slogan had been copied from the 'One Israel' of the administration of the Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak in 1999.

On Dec 3, Bukit Gelugor MP Karpal Singh - who is a member of the committee - said its members were given copies of a letter that day from Apco, dated Aug 19.

Following receipt of the letter, it was moved that the matter against Anwar be heard.

Karpal and fellow committee member R Sivarasa, who is also PKR's Subang Jaya MP, walked out of the meeting in protest.