

Perak's kangaroo state assembly?
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The recent Perak State Assembly was held from 30th November to 4th December 2010.

It was a farce from the very beginning as the large presence of uniformed personnel transformed the State Secretariat surroundings to resemble a military camp.

The proceedings started off with the BN 'Speaker' Ganesan announcing that everyone must address him as 'Tuan Speaker'. This is the first time in history that this type of request was made. It showed that he was not confident of his position. The 'Speaker' also shortened the Question And Answer Session from one and a half hours to one hour.

Right from the first day itself, PKR State Assemblyman S. Kesavan of Hutan Melintang was booted out for the whole term of the Perak State Assembly for no apparent reason without being referred to the Rights And Privileges Committee. The only reason seems to be that he was booted out for asking why he and the other PR State Assemblymen were not given a chance in the Question And Answer Session.

In regards to the Perak State Budget for 2011, it is confirmed that the 13th General Election will be held early next year. There were lots of little goodies and instant noodles, for example Kampung Boyan in Taiping gets RM3.5 million for a flood mitigation project which was long outstanding, affecting 3,000 village folk.

During the four days of the Perak State Assembly, all the doors except one were locked and all the PR State Assemblymen's microphones were constantly switched off by Ganesan, the BN 'Speaker'.

DAP's Nga Kor Ming questioned why most of the reporters were kept in the aquarium only to be shot down by BN Assemblyman from Pengkalan Bahru asking whether Nga also wanted to be suspended. The tone of the whole assembly was one of bullying with the PR side always under heavy bombardment from BN.

zambry-abd-kadir-1Zambry Abdul Kader (the Court-installed Menteri Besar) never answered the questions of the PR State Assemblymen but instead he constantly took the opportunity to attack PR by way of insults and accused PR State Assemblymen of behaving in a rowdy manner.

At one point, instead of answering a simple question from DAP's Nga Kor Ming, he gave a sarcastic speech attacking Nga. He avoided answering Nga but instead did a twist and turn on the issue. Nga's microphone was switched off and he was not allowed to reply.

It was revealed that the state of Perak has a debt of RM903 million as at 2010. When it was the turn of Opposition Leader Nizar Jamaluddin of PAS to speak on the Budget, he was interrupted by BN State Assemblymen for 17 times, by Ganesan 11 times and his microphone was switched off 23 times, all in the space of 50 minutes. Incredible!

Irrelevant topics were also being brought up. One such topic was the number of Malays in DAP. BN's Pengkalan Hulu State Assemblyman made a statement that there were racist

elements in DAP while Kubu Gajah questioned how many Malays are there in DAP.

DAP's Sivakumar of Tronoh replied that there are Malays in DAP and also asked him how many Indians and Chinese are there in UMNO.

Nizar also brought up the issue of the large police presence at the State Secretariat Building, the case of lands in Hutan Melintang being given to UMNO leaders and also how much cost was involved in taking out a 4-page advertisement of the Budget in a local Malay daily but all these questions were not answered by the BN side.

BN State Assemblymen's incompetence were also very evident when Dr. Mah Hang Soon of Chenderiang said that he has been fighting for minimum wage since 2005. That was nothing compared to DAP's Sivanesan of Sungkai who was fighting for the same cause since 1985!

BN State Assemblymen also had the knack of using time-wasting tactics and Kubu Gajah was the main user of such tactics. At one point he raised a supplementary question where no one understood what he was asking. But Zambry seemed to answer it well. Was it pre-scripted? Kubu Gajah also brought up another supplementary question on assembly attire but without directing it at anyone. DAP's Ngeh Koo Ham tried to intervene but was disallowed to do so.

So much for the affairs of this world! In regards to affairs of the supernatural, PAS's Khalil Idham Lim was referred to the Rights And Privileges Committee for questioning who is the BN State Assemblyman who brought in a bomoh into the Dewan during the Black Thursday State Assembly on 7th May 2009.

Overall the PR State Assemblymen had little chance to raise their questions and issues and when they did they were not given any answers except insults and sarcastic remarks. At one point, Zambry commented that there were many frogs in the Dewan (he of all people saying this!) and one of them was DAP's Ngeh Koo Ham who was said to be 'from MCA'. Ngeh promptly stood up and denied it vehemently calling it a BN lie.

BN State Assemblyman of Temenggor also made an allegation that the Selangor State Exco is corrupted. BN 'Speaker' Ganesan instructed Temenggor to withdraw the allegation but then flip-flopped on his own instruction.

In his rebuttal, Zambry only did these things:-

- a) defended his mother who was given land;
- b) defended his actions in a religious rite of another religion; and
- c) defended UMNO in land misappropriation matters.

His arguments had no points and were not based on facts. Major issues were not given answers such as the State Budget deficit, the potential environmental pollution of Teluk Rubiah and farmers' lands given to BN cronies.

It was clearly evident that the people's welfare were not of BN's main concern. BN's power grab in Perak was illegal and against the rule of law. But now that they have Perak in their grasp, the lands in Perak are now being grabbed by their cronies. This is a double-grab: grab Perak and grab the lands in Perak.

This writer hopes that Perakians will be wise enough to return Perak to Pakatan Rakyat before all their lands are in BN's hands and judging by what's going on, it may not be long

before that happens. The current Perak State Assembly is one of chaos and disorder due to BN's bullying of PR State Assemblymen. Nizar summed it up best by referring to it as the Kangaroo State Assembly although this writer is sure that he has no intention of insulting the kangaroo. - Harakah Daily

Selena Tay is a member of PAS Supporters Congress (DHPP).

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