

MPs have the most questions for PM's Dept

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KUALA LUMPUR: The recent floods in Johor and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the United States are on the minds of MPs who go into their first Dewan Rakyat meeting of the year next week.

A total of 1,147 oral questions and 300 written questions have been submitted this time by the MPs, said Parliament corporate communications officer Ahmad Asri Zakaria.

A breakdown of the questions showed that the Prime Minister's Department had the most posed to it - 193.

This was followed by 105 questions for the Education Ministry, 70 for the Finance Ministry, 69 for the Internal Security Ministry, and 62 for the Agriculture and Agro Based Industries Ministry.

Ahmad Asri said the questions touch on such topics as the Johor floods, the FTA negotiations, civil servants' retirement age, Visit Malaysia Year 2007, and the Iskandar regional development in Johor.

The MPs have also submitted 26 motions

under Dewan Rakyat Standing Order 27. Among the topics they want debated are the revival of local government elections, highway toll increases, forged MyKad, and Along (illegal moneylending) activities.

Eleven bills have also been lined up for debate during the 23-day sitting of the Dewan Rakyat. They include the Malaysian Industrial Bio-Fuel Bill, Care Centres (Amendment) Bill, Cooperative Commission Bill, and Cooperatives (Amendment) Bill.

The others are the Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad (Special Allocation) (Amendment) Bill, National Higher Education Fund Board (Amendment) Bill, Labuan Native Ownership Bill, Farmers Association (Amendment) Bill, Biosafety Bill, and the Youth Association and Development Bill.

The first sitting of the fourth meeting of the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara under the 11th Parliament will opened by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin on Monday.

The Dewan Rakyat will sit between March 20 and April 26, and the Dewan Negara will sit for 12 days between May 7 and 24.

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