

Barisan MPs back Ka Ting

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DATUK Seri Ong Ka Ting received strong support from Barisan Nasional MPs who brushed aside an opposition motion against him as "rubbish".

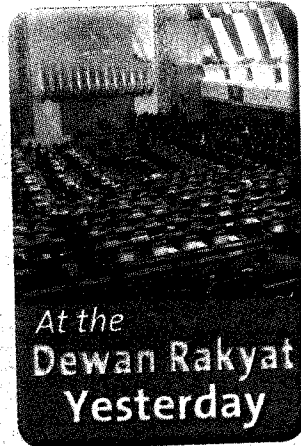
The motion to deduct RM10 of the Housing and Local Government Minister's salary was rejected.

Many MPs were impatient for their turn to speak up against the motion raised by Tan Kok Wai (DAP - Cheras), who claimed that Ong had performed below par throughout the years.

Datuk Chor Chee Heung (BN - Alor Star) said there was no merit in the motion as the power to appoint local councillors was not under the purview of Ong's ministry.

Datuk Idris Harun (BN - Tangga Batu) said Ong had always emphasised the importance of keeping the people happy.

Lau Yeng Peng (BN - Puchong) defended Ong and said he was sensitive to the needs of the people including on the issue of incinerators.



Reports by **ZULKIFLI ABD RAHMAN,**
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and **ELIZABETH LOOI**

Datuk Mohamed Aziz (BN - Sri Gading) said Ong and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu were among the most hardworking ministers.

Ong, who remained calm through

out the debate on the motion, said the DAP was raising it as a political tactic because they "smell that election is approaching."

"They think election is near. And they feel that if they want to spoil the MCA's image, the best way is to go all out against me. That is their motive," he said.

Tan then retorted in a raised voice: "The truth hurts, doesn't it?"

Ong responded saying he would continue to be transparent and his conscience was clear.

"I have nothing against them. It doesn't matter if the election is in one or two years' time and it doesn't matter how many times they want to cut my pay.

"This is not going to change the way I work and I will continue to improve myself," he added.

On Monday, the House rejected a motion to cut the salary of the Education Minister, his two deputies and parliamentary secretary by RM10 each.