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Newspaper	The Sun
Date	25/6/2013

MPs submit motion on haze

KUALA LUMPUR: MPs from both sides of the divide yesterday submitted a motion to discuss the current critical haze situation in the country.

Former deputy education minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong on his official Twitter account said he had filed a motion under the Standing Order 18(1) to Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia to discuss the issue, which is expected to be debated tomorrow once the MPs begin debating the motion to thank the royal address by the King.

Teo Ni Ching (DAP-Kulai) also filed a similar motion to debate the worsening haze condition.

She urged the government to have effective negotiations with their Indonesian counterpart to solve the problem permanently and not have the same issue occurring annually.

Teo also said those who are found to flout the laws in Indonesia must be punished under the country's laws.

"If some of these culprits are Malaysians, then the Malaysian government must also take action to punish them in Malaysia," she said in a statement yesterday.

Pandikar re-elected speaker

> Opposition questions selection process which they say should be a secret ballot

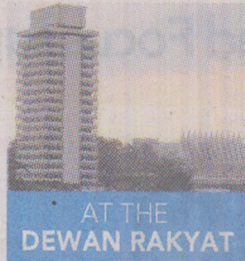
BY **HEMANANTHANI SIVANANDAM**
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Dewan Rakyat has re-elected Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia as the speaker for the second term yesterday on the first day of the 13th Parliament Session.

He was sworn in shortly after receiving 133 votes from the 222 MPs through a ballot voting, which was the first agenda for the day.

The remaining 89 votes went to former federal court judge Datuk Abdul Kadir Sulaiman, whose name was proposed by the Opposition.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak proposed Pandikar Amin's name while PKR's Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim proposed Abdul Kadir on behalf of Pakatan



Rakyat.

Dewan Rakyat Secretary Datuk Roosme Hamzah said the voting was in accordance with Standing Order 4(3).

She said MPs were required to sign their names on the ballot,

which prompted objection by the Opposition, which demanded a secret ballot.

PAS-Sepang MP Hanipa Maidin and Gobind Singh Deo (DAP-Puchong) questioned the selection process, adding that MPs need not sign their names, otherwise their votes would no longer be a secret.

BN-Kinabatangan MP Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin then questioned opposition MPs, saying "what's wrong with putting your name on the voting slip?"

The swearing-in ceremony of

the MPs was led by Najib, who is Pekan MP.

This was followed by his deputy, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (BN-Pagoh) as well as the 131 MPs representing the Barisan Nasional (BN).

For the Opposition, Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (PKR-Permatang Pauh) led the oath-taking of the MPs representing the coalition of PKR, PAS and DAP.

Soon after the MPs were sworn in, Pandikar Amin announced the

appointment of the Beluran MP Datuk Ronald Kiandee and Kuala Krau MP Datuk Ismail Mohamed as deputy speakers.

Their names were suggested by Najib and were seconded by Muhyiddin.

To this, Fian Chua (PKR-Batu) stood up and said the Opposition also had suggestions for the posts but was rejected by Pandikar Amin.

Pandikar Amin said the Opposition nominees should have been submitted 14 days prior to the opening sitting.

Meanwhile, at the lobby, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, who is in charge of parliamentary affairs said Standing Order 4(3) does not stipulate that a secret ballot be held.

He said MPs had to sign their names during the voting to ensure the authenticity of their status.

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