

Pakatan wants Parliament to demand Auditor-General's report
The Malaysian Insider
October 13, 2011
By Shannon Teoh

Mahfuz said the Auditor-General's report was meant for Parliament's scrutiny. — File pic
KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 13 — The federal opposition will table an emergency motion on Monday to demand the Auditor-General's report be given to MPs immediately.

Pakatan Rakyat (PR) has accused the Barisan Nasional (BN) government of keeping the audit under wraps to prevent its lawmakers from raising it during the ongoing budget debate.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said earlier this week that he would ask Cabinet tomorrow to make the report public within a fortnight but gave no reason for the delay.

But PR lawmakers told a press conference in the Parliament lobby today that the report was for the use of elected representatives and not just the government of the day.

"How can it be stuck with the finance ministry when it is meant to be tabled for Parliament?" said PAS vice-president Datuk Mahfuz Omar.

PKR Sungai Petani MP Datuk Johari Abdul said the report had been ready for months and "I was told the Auditor-General is 'very happy' with the report as it is better than previous years."

The Auditor-General's report is a financial audit of all government departments and has revealed irregularities in past years.

In previous years, the budget and Auditor-General's report had been made public the same day. Last year, the audit report was released a week after the budget.

The opposition has claimed that the 2009 report proves that the government wastes RM28 billion annually.

But BN insists that the figure has been wrongly reported as there is no specific mention in the report.

The Malaysian Insider
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