

PSC's Report, Recommendations On Electoral Reform Passed Without Debate
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- All 22 recommendations submitted by the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) on Electoral Reform in its final report tabled at the Dewan Rakyat Tuesday were passed without debate.

The decision was made by Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia after several government and opposition MPs engaged in a war of words pertaining his decision to reject a motion to get a minority report be inserted in the final report.

The war of words also caused three opposition MPs - Azmin Ali (PKR-Gombak), R.Sivarasa (PKR-Subang) and Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (Pas-Kuala Selangor) - to be ordered to leave the Dewan.

"Since the opposition MPs are not keen to debate the motion, I now propose that a decision is made for the motion on the report tabled by Science, Technology and Innovation Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili) as the chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) on Electoral Reforms," Pandikar Amin said.

Despite the ongoing commotion and the fact that the motion received a loud shout of "agree" from backbenchers, the Speaker still offered the opposition MPs a chance to decide on the motion through block voting.

However, the opposition MPs refused to do so and hence, forced the Speaker to pass the motion according to the voice of the majority without debate.

"If you want block voting, speak now. If not, the decision is clear, the motion is passed," he said.

Earlier, Ongkili, when tabling the 79-page report, which also contained 22 recommendations to improve the election process, said: "Matters brought to the attention of the Dewan are matters that have been identified as the most important aspects implementable by the Election Commission (EC) and other relevant agencies over the short and long term.

"During our six-month operation, over 200 suggestions and ideas on electoral reforms were submitted by members of the public for our consideration," he said when tabling the report at the Dewan Rakyat today.

Ongkili said the report was prepared based on public opinion during public hearings, feedback from PSC members, conclusions provided by sub-committees and PSC members' observation during their working visits to the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark.

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