

DAP motion on MH370 scuppered

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KUALA LUMPUR: DAP's attempt to table a motion to set up a parliamentary select committee (PSC) on MH370 today fizzled out after the Dewan Rakyat Deputy Speaker said he had not received a notice.

When debating the Royal Address, Anthony Loke (DAP-Seremban) said the motion of thanks should be amended to include that Parliament wished to set up a PSC to investigate the disappearance MH370.

He said that questions on national defence, safety at the immigration counters, and SOPs for crisis management had to be answered once the search and rescue (SAR) mission for the plane was over.

“We have to show a good example and send out a message to the outside world that we are very concerned about this, and we must take the right steps,” Loke told the House.

“We must show a good example that Parliament is united in handling this. Hence, I would like to use Standing Order 26(1) A and 30(1) to amend the motion of thanks on the Royal Address.”

The motion would require approval and support from Deputy Speaker Ronald Kiandee as well as the majority of the MPs in the House.

Standing Orders

Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Gelang Patah) stood up to implore all parliamentarians to support the motion, in the name of national unity and national reconciliation.

“We may even need a multinational parliament inquiry, and this requires our Parliament to initiate an investigation that is above politics,” said Lim.

Kiandee retorted that tabling a motion to amend a motion (of thanks) must be in accordance with the Standing Orders.

“It is not fair for you to ask me to decide now, as you are bringing up this motion in your speech, and not tabling a specific motion. I cannot give an answer on the spot. I will examine the motion,” he said.

Loke later told a press conference that he had sent a notice to the Dewan Rakyat Speaker's office on the motion to set up the PSC.

He said DAP expected the motion to be tabled on March 27, when the ministers wrap up their

speech on the Royal Address.

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