

**Kedah Government Not Totally Dependent On Timber Revenue - Mukhriz  
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ALOR SETAR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- The Kedah state government received less revenue from the logging sector compared to the time when the opposition pact was administering the state as the sector was no longer the main source of income for the state.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir told the State Legislative Assembly sitting Tuesday that in 2011, the targeted revenue from logging was RM39 million but the actual revenue was RM80.2 million.

"In 2012, their target was RM89.9 million but the actual revenue was only RM38 million. In 2013, the target was RM65 million but the revenue received was merely RM15 million.

"As of June 2014, the revenue was RM21 million with the target up to the end of the year at RM35 million," he said when replying to a question from Datuk Ahmad Lebai Sudin (BN-Bukit Lada).

Ahmad had asked the state government to disclose the total revenue received from logging currently compared to the time when the state was administered by the opposition pact.

Meanwhile, the issue on the social media, which is considered too liberal to the extent that it can be abused by certain individuals, became the main topic of the debate on the motion of thanks for the Sultan of Kedah's speech when opening the Assembly sitting.

Government backbenchers and opposition assemblymen were seen to be in agreement in expressing their fear on the abuse of the social media especially among the younger group which could threaten racial and religious harmony in the country.

Among those who took up the issue were Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah (BN-Bakar Bata), Nor Saidi Nayan (BN-Kuah), Datuk Phahrolrazi Zawawi (PAS-Pengkalan Kundor), Ooi Tze Min (PKR-Bakar Arang), Siti Ashah Ghazali (PAS-Merbau Pulas), Kama Noriah Ibrahim (BN-Pedu) and Ali Yahya (BN-Pantai Merdeka).

The first assemblyman to raise the issue was Ahmad Bashah who said that the comments on race, culture and religious practices were being openly made.

"Some have said our solidarity have become increasingly loose. Some are saying that there is greater suspicion between the various races. I sincerely hope that this is not true because we desire continuous peace and solidarity in the country.

Ahmad Bashah said if this development was left unchecked, it was feared that the problem would deteriorate and the community would continue to harbour the feeling of hatred.

"We may have to look at a more severe penalty on cyber offenders who make racial provocation and spread false reports that could cause racial tension," he said.

On Monday, the Sultan of Kedah, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah expressed regret at the various incidents that threatened racial and religious harmony in the country lately.

In his speech text at the official opening of the 13th State Legislative Assembly sitting, which was read by the Chairman of the Kedah Council of Regency, Tan Sri Tunku Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah, the Sultan said many people from the younger generation were expressing their opinions through the social media without considering the sensitivities of the various races on religion and social customs.

Kama Noriah in her debate Tuesday said the speech by the Ruler was a reminder of the danger that might arise if the social media were abused.

The State Assembly will sit again Wednesday.

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