

MB Says Opposition Black Attire At Perak Assembly Opening Disrespectful
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IPOH, March 31 (Bernama) -- Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir has described as ill-mannered and disrespectful the wearing of black attire by all the opposition assemblymen at the opening of the state legislative assembly session here today by the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah.

He also expressed his disappointment over their disrespect for Sultan Nazrin Shah as today's event marked the maiden attendance of the ruler at the opening of the state legislative assembly session as the 35th sultan of Perak.

"Today is the opening ceremony of the assembly session and they are required to be in the ceremonial attire and I cannot accept any of their excuses.

"To me, it is a discourteous act to the royal institution, more so as it is a very historic event for Perak because today (Tuanku) officiated the sitting as the sultan and was clad in ruler's attire ... but the opposition members wore black symbolising death, sadness, darkness and mourning," he told reporters after the opening ceremony.

He said their action caused Sultan Nazrin Shah to skip the photography session and reception after the opening ceremony.

"Tuanku was hoping to have the photography session for the first time and in his royal address he mentioned that today's official opening of the assembly was historic for him as the sultan," Zambry said.

Zambry did not rule out the possibility that the opposition assemblymen would apologise to Sultan Nazrin Shah for their action but said their action showed their true colours.

A total of 26 opposition assemblymen attired in black arrived in a group at the compound of the Perak Darul Ridzuan building this morning.

Earlier, at a separate media conference, Perak Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin said their black attire, among others, was a mark of protest and solidarity for imprisoned PKR leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Thirteen Perak PAS members were also arrested on Feb 26, 2009, and jailed and forced to pay various fines and currently they are being imprisoned in Kajang for 10 months," he said.

He said the protest was also to express the opposition's anger over the hike in prices of goods and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Wednesday.

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