

Zahid Among For New Select Committee Members

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- The Dewan Rakyat today passed the motion to appoint Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi as a member of the Parliament Select Committee to replace Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (BN-Pagoh), who has been dropped from the Cabinet.

The motion, tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, also proposed the appointment of Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam to replace Datuk Seri G Palanivel (BN-Cameron Highlands) and Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to replace Permatang Pauh Member of Parliament Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is serving time for sodomy.

It was tabled in accordance with Regulation 76 of the Parliament Standing Order and was seconded by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, before it was passed with a majority vote.

Prior to that, during the debate, several members of the house, including Khalid Samad (Amanah-Shah Alam) and Dr Hatta Ramli (Amanah-Kuala Krai), questioned the motion as the members who were dropped from the committee were still members of the august house.

However, their argument was quashed by Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, who said that Ahmad Zahid's appointment was by virtue that he was the new Barisan Nasional (BN) chief whip.

"The appointment in the committee is because of post not as an individual," he said.

The Parliament Select Committee consists of the Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia, as the chairman, and six members.

Besides the newly appointed members, also on the committee are Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Joseph Entulu, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai and Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Gelang Patah).

Today was the first day meeting of the Third Meeting of the Third Session of the 13th Parliament, but the situation was already tense with various issues raised and two DAP members of the house, Lim Lip Eng (Segambut) and Gobind Singh Deo (Puchong), ordered to leave the hall for not adhering to the Speaker's order.

Lim had asked for a clarification on his motion on the toll increase which he claimed was rejected by the Speaker, while Gobind Singh, for defending Lim.

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