

PM has right to answer questions on country's debt - Lim

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 23 (Bernama) -- The willingness of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to answer questions addressed to the Minister of Finance during the question and answer session at Dewan Rakyat today shows the accountability of the Prime Minister to the Parliament.

Minister of Finance Lim Guan Eng said not only the prime minister had the right to do so, his swift action to answer the questions should also be praised.

"He (Dr Mahathir) swiftly answered the question. I think the prime minister's accountability deserved the praise," he told reporters briefly at the Parliament lobby here today.

He said this in response to the prime minister's move in answering Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's question to the Finance Minister at the Dewan Rakyat sitting earlier on the rationale for Malaysia securing a loan facility from Japan.

Dr Mahathir said the value of the Japanese yen was cheaper than the ringgit with one yen equalling 1 US cent, while RM1 was worth 25 US cents, and repaying Malaysia's debt in the Japanese yen meant the country would not be burdened with a high interest rate of more than six per cent.

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