

On, off-duty conduct important, MPs told

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today that MPs should conduct themselves well both inside and outside Parliament.

The Deputy Prime Minister added that such conduct was necessary because they were the bridge between the people and the government.

He was speaking at the opening of the three-day seminar on the practice and procedures of Parliament organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of Malaysia at Parliament House here.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that the people would not have respect for their elected representatives if they used words that were undignified.

This would in turn affect the people's respect for the government.

Many countries, which had tried to practise the parliamentary democratic system, had failed because of a lack of understanding and an unbecoming conduct amongst their members of parliament, he said.

There were also many countries trying to practise the parliamentary democratic system, but which had eventually become dictatorships, because of a lack of understanding of the procedures

and practice of parliament, he added.

As such, every MP should understand the procedures and debating process in Parliament so that it could be run effectively.

Among those present at the opening were the president of the Senate, Tun Omar Yoke Lin Ong, Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat, Tan Sri Syed Nasir Ismail, six speakers of state assemblies and members of parliament.

A representative of the British House of Commons, Mr. David Pring, will give talks and hold dialogues