

24/12/1999

BN MPs being monitored

Carolyn Hong

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Barisan Nasional MPs are being monitored in Parliament and will be dropped at the next general election if they do not perform to expectations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said BN officials were watching the MPs closely, especially with regard to attendance and debates.

"Besides the secretary to the Parliament, we also keep records. We keep note of how long they (the MPs) were in the hall, whether they took part in the debate, how prepared they were for the debate and so on.

"In the end, we will report this to their voters," he said, adding that BN MPs had already been reminded to attend Parliament.

Dr Mahathir was responding to reporters' questions on the long-standing struggle to get a full house at the Dewan Rakyat.

Dr Mahathir said the record kept by the secretary to the Parliament showed that many BN MPs had signed in but they were often outside the House where they could still follow the broadcast debate.

"Their names are recorded as having attended.

If they don't attend, they won't get their allowance ... but they may be sitting outside and listening to the debate," he said.

Asked if their respective parties would take action against slack MPs, Dr Mahathir said this would be considered.

However, he said nothing had been decided yet.

The Prime Minister was speaking after launching a commemorative millennium gold coin produced by Mariwasa Kraftangan Sdn Bhd for Bank Negara Malaysia.

The limited edition collectible is made of 999.9 gold and has a legal value of RM500. A total of 10,000 are for sale at RM2,000 each.

(END)