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DAP hails formation of governance committee

PENANG, Sat. - The DAP today welcomed the establishment of a Cabinet Committee on Good Governance chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, but asked why there was no proper announcement of its formation.

Chairman Lim Kit Siang said the DAP wanted to know the committee's composition, terms of reference, powers and methods "as it must encompass important jurisdiction to fight corruption and all forms of abuses of power".

He said in a statement that the committee's first directive should be to require all ministers to assume full personal responsibility to diligently attend their parliamentary duties as answering questions or replying to speeches affecting their ministries.

If there were good and acceptable reasons why the ministers could not be present in Parliament, such reasons should be given during proceedings if the absence of a minister to reply to questions or speeches relating to his ministry was raised in the Dewan Rakyat.

"With such a directive and ministerial leadership by example, the prevalent problem of Barisan Nasional MPs playing truant, Dewan Rakyat meetings would be resolved immediately," Lim said.

Lim was commenting on Abdullah's statement after chairing a meeting of the committee at the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya yesterday that Cabinet ministers had been directed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to carry out their duties with collective responsibility, loyalty, efficiency and dedication to their duties as members of the government.

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