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Lee-MPs

ELECTED REPS SHOULD SERVE ON A FULL-TIME BASIS, SAYS SOCIAL ACTIVIST

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 19 (Bernama) -- Former Bukit Bintang Member of Parliament Datuk Lee Lam Thye has suggested that the monthly remuneration and other perks of elected representatives be reviewed upwards to enable them to serve on a full-time basis.

This would allow the MPs and state assemblymen to devote their full attention to their constituencies, thus doing justice to the people who have elected them, he said in a statement today.

Lee, who served as an MP for seven terms, said although many of today's elected representatives were serving full-time, there were still many others who were not prepared to give up their respective professions for the sake of making politics a full-time occupation.

He said at present, an MP was entitled to about RM6,650 per month as remuneration, inclusive of entertainment, travelling allowances, telephone and driver expenses.

Lee also said that MPs and state assemblymen should make themselves accessible by making known their telephone and fax numbers or e-mail address to their electorate to allow them to seek their help without any inconvenience.

He said a "wakil rakyat" must also conduct regular meet-the-people sessions in his or her constituency in order to ensure interaction with the grassroots.

"Besides conducting regular meet-the-people sessions, there must also be service centres in the respective constituencies manned by full-time staff to handle the daily needs of the constituents," he said.

Lee reminded elected representatives that "a victory in the election is not a passport to serve one's personal agenda, but to serve with responsibility, integrity, commitment and hardwork".

"The job of a wakil rakyat today is very demanding compared with the early days of our parliamentary elections because the elected representatives now have to deal with educated electorates who are well-informed about current affairs and in most cases about their rights," he said.

On the new Cabinet line-up announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Dec 10, Lee said with a good mixture of experienced and youthful leaders, it should help to provide a strong and efficient government to address many issues and challenges that lies ahead.

-- BERNAMA

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