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Gus Dur's remark is unbecoming

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THE recent statement by President Abdurrahman Wahid in the Indonesian parliament that Malaysian Ministers did little more than play golf reflects the sorry state of our big neighbour Indonesia.

One would wonder whether Gus Dur and other Indonesian leaders are intellectually capable of leading Indonesia out of its social, economic and political problems in Aceh, Irian Jaya, Maluku, etc.

Malaysia has been continuously developing and overcoming challenges, thanks to our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Saying that Malaysian Ministers are hard to find because they merely play golf is indeed intellectually weak.

The statement by Gus Dur also reflects on his management skills.

In management, weaknesses of subordinates or, in this case, Malaysian Ministers is a reflection of the leader or Prime Minister.

We know too well that Dr Mahathir is a visionary and hard working leader.

Even if our Ministers occasionally play golf, the development and stability that Malaysia has enjoyed are a reflection of their track record and performance.

Another explanation is that they have done their jobs so well that they can afford to play golf.

What is the purpose of easily finding Ministers if they are not performing and are not able to solve problems?

What is worse is having ministers that create problems for the administration and country.

The least Gus Dur could do is keep quiet if he doesn't know what is happening in Malaysia.

The statement, even if it was meant to be a joke, is unbecoming and also doesn't rhyme with visiting Malaysia to seek rice credit and an increase in the quota of Indonesian workers.

Making the statement in Parliament, a serious law-making institution, also seems out of place.