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Mahathir-Responsibility

PM REMINDS BN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE THEIR CONSTITUENCIES

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded Barisan Nasional (BN) elected representatives to take their responsibility to serve their constituencies seriously.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said that elected representatives should visit their constituencies and pay attention to problems which arose.

"Besides visiting their constituencies, they should also be present at Parliament sessions," he said at a news conference after chairing the BN pre-council meeting prior to the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara sessions, at the Prime Minister's Department, here.

Dr Mahathir said that he had at times found seats empty at the Dewan Rakyat because the elected representatives were absent and sometimes there were situations when there was no quorum.

"I saw Lat's cartoon today, so it cross my mind there may be some truth in what he says...during the election, everyone make fiery speeches but when elected, they sometimes fail to attend the Dewan Rakyat sitting," he said.

In the cartoon in an English-language daily, the well-known local cartoonist depicted a candidate speaking out before the election but did not attend parliament after his victory.

Meanwhile, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, when met, said what she understood from the term "visiting the constituency" was that appropriate action must be taken to overcome problems.

"I interpret it as holding dialogues with the people of all levels in my constituency and not just going back to meet people from the party, whether the divisions or branches," she said.

She said that such dialogues would enable the people to bring up their problems including those relating to health, livestock and drainage.

Rafidah said that the people were sometimes not too bothered with development as long as their problems were given attention by their elected representatives.

Foreign Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said that BN elected representatives should discharge their duties effectively especially in view of the bigger number of elected representatives from the opposition parties than before.

"As such, we have to make sure that we discharge our duties well by giving our best to serve the constituents," he said.

National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said that the prime minister wanted the elected representatives to be more committed in serving the people.

The Wanita Umno chief said that Dr Mahathir's reminder to the elected representatives to go down to the field was in line with the BN's aspiration to fulfil pledges in its manifesto.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Education Ministry and Member of Parliament for Sungai Petani Datuk Dr Mahadzir Mohamed Khir said that besides having good rapport with the community, elected representatives should serve as motivators of activities to include the people.

He planned to set up a development committee in his constituency to comprise representatives of the various BN component parties to obtain feedback from the constituents.

-- BERNAMA
MAM ARA RM