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Zahir-Attendance

ZAHIR WELCOMES MAHATHIR'S WARNING TO TRUANT BN MP'S

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's directive to Barisan Nasional MPs to be present at all Dewan Rakyat meetings is appropriate and timely, said Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail.

"I hope that with this directive, we can see an improvement in the attendance of the MPs," Zahir told reporters at Parliament lobby.

He was commenting on the prime minister and BN chairman's warning to BN MPs that their attendance of Dewan Rakyat sittings was being monitored in the wake of their poor attendance including during this week's four-day sitting.

Zahir said that the poor attendance gave the impression that the MPs did not respect the august house.

"There are not many people present sometimes...it appears as if the house is not respected by its members," he said.

Replying to a question, Zahir said there was no difference in the level of attendance since the house began sitting in the morning.

He said starting the meetings in the morning helped outstation MPs as they would be able to spend all their time in Parliament.

Government Backbenchers Club (BBC) president Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis said it was the responsibility of all MPs to attend Dewan Rakyat meetings.

He said BN MPs should view seriously Dr Mahathir's warning about their attendance.

PAS MP Husam Musa, when asked for his view on the matter, said the move to monitor the attendance of BN MPs was appropriate.

He said ministers too should attend Dewan Rakyat sittings unless they had other important engagements.

-- BERNAMA

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