

03 NOV 2000
Mahathir-MPs

MAHATHIR FOLLOWING DEWAN RAKYAT DEBATE FROM PUTRAJAYA OFFICE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, disappointed over the attendance of some Barisan Nasional (BN) Members of Parliament in the Dewan Rakyat, said today that he can now monitor the Parliament debate from his office in Putrajaya.

"I can see the debate now because they have wired the debate, so that I can see the debate from my office in Putrajaya.

"I can look into the chambers and see who is talking, who is not taking, so I know when the room is empty," he said when asked to comment on news reports about the attendance of BN MPs in the Dewan Rakyat.

The New Straits Times today reported that the Cabinet has noted that some BN MPs were not even present in the Dewan Rakyat to ask questions which they had already submitted in writing.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is also the BN whip, has come up with a circular on the matter and had told the MPs to stop playing truant and to carry out their duties responsibly.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said he had already warned the MPs regarding their duty to attend the Dewan Rakyat sittings and was now taking note of the development.

"I have warned them, so I'm taking note," he said.

The prime minister issued a warning during the pre-council meeting of BN MPs on Oct 16 that attendance record of the MPs would be a factor in determining if they would be retained in the next general election.

He has said that BN MPs who failed to attend Parliament sittings without valid reasons might not be fielded again.

-- BERNAMA
AFY AHH RM