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PARLIAMENT: OPPOSITION LACKS NEW IDEAS, ONLY RHETORICS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it is not necessary for him to attend Dewan Rakyat sittings if it is only to listen to rhetorics from the opposition.

The Prime Minister said he already knew that the opposition lacked new ideas for debates and in fact he knew all of the opposition's ideas.

"I know all what the opposition wants to say, there is nothing new (that they want to say), since I have already known then there is no need for me to listen... that is why I didn't come (attend)," he said before the windingup of the debate on the Constitutional Bill (Amendment) 2000 in the Dewan Rakyat.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on the call by Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) for the Prime Minister to attend Parliament sittings twice a week to ensure that the other ministers would also be present.

On the closed circuit television which monitors developments in the Dewan Rakyat and linked directly to his office, Dr Mahathir said, in a lighter vein, that it had to be occasionally switched off due to the noise made by the opposition enquiring the government on old issues.

"Occasionally it has to be switched off due to the noise. Despite our repeated explanations they still want us to explain, if not they will shout and speak in a loud tone," Dr Mahathir said, adding that, he followed what was happening in every sitting.

-- BERNAMA

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