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Parliament-Camera

PM ALLOWED TO FOLLOW PROCEEDINGS THROUGH CLOSE-CIRCUIT TV - SPEAKER

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is allowed to follow the proceedings of the Dewan Rakyat from his office in Putrajaya via close-circuit television as he is the head of the government, Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail said today.

Defending the move to allow the proceedings to be transmitted to the Prime Minister's office, Mohamed Zahir said he had the authority to make such decisions.

He was responding to Tan Kok Wai (DAP-Cheras) who had rose to seek clarification on the matter just after question time.

Referring to Dr Mahathir's statement on Friday that he was personally monitoring the performance of MPs from his office, Tan said it was a serious matter as it gave the impression that "Parliament belongs to just one Prime Minister".

He said the proceedings were not shown live on television for people to watch from their homes.

Mohamed Zahir said the proceedings were also transmitted to his office and that of the Dewan Negara President, and there were plans to install close-circuit television monitors at the Parliament lobby as well.

Tan did not appear satisfied with the Speaker's answer and an uproar ensued as several MPs tried to speak on the subject at the same time.

Mohamed Zahir ordered opposition MPs to stop talking about the matter as he had already made his decision and it was final.

Questioned by reporters later, Mohamed Zahir said only one camera was installed in the Dewan Rakyat.

"The camera will focus only on the person speaking," he said.

--BERNAMA

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