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Grouses resolved, says Dr Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said grievances raised by several Members of Parliament relating to the performance of some Ministers were resolved in a meeting held at his office today.

Dr Mahathir said he explained to the MPs matters related to their dissatisfaction on some Ministers and on MPs' role in the implementation of small projects in their constituencies.

"We have managed to resolve most of the problems except for a few minor ones ... it is an internal matter," he said after chairing an Umno supreme council meeting today. He was asked to comment on a meeting he had earlier with BN MPs at his office at the Prime Minister's office in Putrajaya.

Meanwhile, Backbenchers' Club secretary Datuk Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah elaborated that Dr Mahathir had asked all MPs to give priority to their duties as the people's representatives and attend sittings religiously.

Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional chairman, also wants a roster to be drawn up to ensure that there would be a majority of BN MPs throughout the meeting.

Ahmad Husni said the two-hour meeting mostly discussed the role of MPs in Parliament and at their respective constituencies. All BN MPs were present.

"Dr Mahathir wants all MPs to carry out their duties responsibly by giving priority to their attendance in Parliament. MPs have to divide their time between several duties but when Parliament is in session, attendance in Parliament should take precedence over all other engagements.

"He (Dr Mahathir) does not want to hear any more complaints with regard to MPs' attendance as it is the duty of elected representatives to attend Parliament sittings and to participate in its activities."

MPs, he added, were also told not to take for granted that fellow MPs would be around even if they decide to skip the day's sitting to attend to their business or other commitments.

"So the roster will ensure that a majority of MPs would be in the House while those who need to attend to other matters could be excused from attending the meeting."

Absenteeism among MPs had been a perennial problem during previous sittings which, in many instances, leading to adjournment of proceedings due to lack of quorum.

Dr Mahathir, Ahmad Husni said, also asked MPs to go direct to him (Dr Mahathir) if they have any grouses or were dissatisfied with some issues including on the performance of some Ministers.

This, Ahmad Husni, said was because Dr Mahathir would be in the best position to deal with the matters effectively.

"Dr Mahathir also asked MPs to monitor all development projects in their constituencies to ensure that it is completed on time," Ahmad Husni said.

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