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MPs warned not to skip Parliament meetings

PETALING JAYA, Sat. - Barisan Nasional Members of Parliament take note.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was aware of the poor attendance of BN MPs in the Dewan Rakyat.

"I will see to that ... we take note of these things. We know because attendance is marked," he said.

Dr Mahathir was asked whether action would be taken against MPs who failed to attend Parliament sessions despite the repeated reminders given to them.

The New Straits Times daily head count of MPs present in the Dewan Rakyat was as low as 24 at one time.

The Cabinet has also taken note of this, with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi describing such attitude as "a dereliction of duty".

Abdullah, who is the BN whip, had also told the BN MPs to stop playing truant and to carry out their duties responsibly.

He had said it was the duty of elected representatives to attend Parliament sittings so that the problems of the people could be brought up and attended to.

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