

29/10/2001

Neither seen nor heard

GOOD leaders do not suffer fools gladly, more so when those under them have been elected by the people to serve the rakyat and the Government. A lackadaisical attitude towards fulfilling their responsibilities, which they sought in the first place, is a dereliction of duty. Indeed, the poor attendance of Barisan Nasional Members of Parliament in the Dewan Rakyat is a continuing embarrassment to the Government.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has once again given them a stern warning and they must respond to it. "I will see to that (poor attendance)... we take note of these things. We know because attendance is marked," he said. Having worked tirelessly to be party leaders and MPs, they should similarly serve those who elected them. MPs' service record, conduct and demeanour, expressed or implied, reflect the party in power and are subject to public scrutiny.

Absenting themselves without good reason constitutes a selfish, uncaring attitude and the truants should be held culpable for what they have done and do. Their poor show only provides ammunition for the Opposition in future elections. As the strongest chain is no stronger than its weakest link, absentee MPs must wake up and change their ways quickly or be changed. The BN whip must crack down hard on these tardy representatives of the people.

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