

24 JUN 2003

INCAPABLE MPS SHOULD RETIRE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 24 (Bernama) -- Members of Parliament who are no longer able to perform their role should withdraw from contesting in the next general election, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said: "If they feel they cannot do certain things, they must withdraw."

He said this to reporters at the Parliament lobby when asked whether elected representatives who were ineffective and unpopular should withdraw from defending their parliamentary seats.

On Members of Parliament who seldom visited their constituencies and did not attend Parliament sittings, Dr Mahathir said that as Umno president, he would take into account all these factors before choosing the party's candidates for the next general election.

Asked about his statement at the 54th Umno general assembly last week that he decided to retire while at the peak of his career, Dr Mahathir said the time would come for everyone to retire from the post they held.

As such, an elected representative should accept the fact that when the time came, he had to retire either voluntarily or no longer chosen to defend his position as an elected representative, he added.

-- BERNAMA

HK NM RON AO