

31 OCT 2003

Councillors -- SibU

SHAPE UP OR SHIP OUT, FREQUENTLY ABSENT SMC COUNCILLORS TOLD

SIBU, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Councillors who are frequently absent from the SibU Municipal Council (SMC) meetings were today told to shape up or ship out.

Expressing his annoyance during the council's monthly meeting, its chairman, Datuk Robert Lau Hoi Chew, said quite a number of councillors were in the habit of not turning up for full meetings or those of standing and ad-hoc committees.

He said it was not fair for these councillors to accept the appointment but only attend meetings at their whims and fancies.

Lau said although it was a voluntary service, a councillor was expected to be dedicated, committed and responsible in carrying out his or her entrusted responsibilities to the public.

"If you have to skip any meeting for whatever reason, please inform the secretary in advance."

"I am taking this very seriously. Please tell your political party not to reappoint you if you think you cannot serve as expected," he said.

However, on the whole most of the councillors were very regular and a few had yet to miss a single meeting. Lau said.

Meanwhile, councillors attending today's meeting agreed that the question of "absenteeism" ought to be "deliberated in greater depth at the next meeting."

There are 25 councillors in the SibU Municipal Council, including Lau and his deputy, Vincent Goh, who is also the State Assemblyman for Pelawan.

At today's council meeting, the chairman of the standing committee on Public Health and Municipality Services, Dr Yiu Sii Ming, proposed a motion to thank retiring Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohammad for his services to the country.

"While we all feel sad, we wish him all the best on his retirement and at the same time wish to congratulate his successor, Datuk Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi."

--BERNAMA

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