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Barisan to punish ineffective representatives

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Barisan Nasional is listening to the people and will punish elected representatives who are ineffective. So, not only wakil rakyat who play truant may be dropped in the next general election but those unpopular with their constituents will also get the axe.

BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamad Rahmat said the BN headquarters had since the last election been monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the performances of their wakil rakyat, including absentees from legislative assemblies.

"The views of the people in the constituencies will be taken into consideration. We know that some MPs are friendly and warm before elections but suddenly become too busy and unapproachable when they are voted in. It is regrettable that there are MPs who behave this way.

"We have received many complaints from the people asking us to change their wakil rakyat as they (MPs) are ineffective. We will consider the feelings of the people as we know that unpopular MPs stand to lose in the election.

Yesterday, BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned that MPs who regularly stayed away from the Dewan Rakyat could be dropped in the next general election.

Dr Mahathir said the people did not elect their wakil rakyat for the sake of giving them the title Yang Berhormat, but for them to work.

Mohamad said the BN headquarters would submit detailed reports on the performance and assessment of the MPs to Dr Mahathir soon, adding that the performance of the MPs would be gauged from all aspects, from their attendance and participation in Parliament to their services to the community.

"The BN places very serious attention on the performance of elected representatives and has introduced various measures like making it a requirement for elected representatives to submit monthly reports to the BN headquarters to ensure that they provide quality and satisfactory service," he said.

He said the reports among others, include the places they have visited, official and unofficial activities they have attended, problems affecting the people detected and resolved, and projects approved in their respective constituencies.

"They will also need to disclose the number of constituents they have met. Sadly, some representatives have failed to submit their monthly reports to us."