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Dr M: MPs who play truant may be dropped

Zubaidah Abu Bakar; Alina Simon

JITRA, Fri. - Elected representatives who play "truant" from the Dewan Rakyat could be dropped in the next general election as they have failed to carry out the duties that they were chosen for.

Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said if one was elected and failed to carry out his duties, he should not be given another chance.

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

"This is not hard to do," he said, warning that the failure of Members of Parliament and Assemblymen to fulfil their duties could erode the support for Umno and the Barisan Nasional.

In his 80-minute speech at the opening of the Kubang Pasu Umno division meeting at Dewan Wawasan here, he said one of the failures of the elected representatives was their poor attendance in Parliament.

"I feel sad to see many empty seats in Parliament and often there is lack of quorum.

"When I suggested that the parliament sessions be televised live, many disagreed because it will show the many empty seats.

"Some of the elected representatives came only to mark their attendance and collect their allowance," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the irony was that these elected representatives had worked very hard to become election candidates but neglected their duties after being elected.

Meanwhile, 33 Umno veterans from the division received the Jasamu Dikenang medals from the Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir also received business tithes worth RM30,000 from Amanah Raya Berhad which he later distributed to those eligible in Kubang Pasu constituency.