

Najib: Be mindful of what you say

NST- 19/6/2007.

■ Reports by Anis Ibrahim, V. Vasudevan and R.S. Kamini

BACKBENCHERS have been advised to exercise care in the way they conduct themselves in parliament.

The advice came from Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at a BN pre-council meeting yesterday.

He told them to exercise caution when they spoke because things could get out of hand if the wrong words were used.

Najib's advice to the backbenchers came in the wake of

controversial remarks by two backbenchers — Kinabatangan MP Datuk Bung Moktar Radin and Jasin MP Datuk Mohd Said Yusof — during the last session.

Both had equated the leaking parliament roof to Fong Po Kuan's (DAP-Batu Gajah) monthly menstruation.

"You also leak once a month," both said during a noisy session when the DAP demanded to know how parliament could spring leaks so soon after it was refurbished.

They apologised following protests by women's groups.

At yesterday's meeting,

Bung Moktar took the opportunity to tick off senators who had attended the meeting and a deputy minister who had said he would write to the prime minister about Bung Moktar and Mohd Said's conduct.

Bung Moktar said the senators and the deputy minister should not have taken swipes at him and Mohd Said.

"I think the senators should have just called us rather than bring up the matter in the Upper House. They were playing up something the opposition is making an issue of," he said in the parliament lobby.