

Mahathir ticks off absentee MPs

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➤ He says PH reps must attend Parliament if they are serious about serving the people

■ BY **AMAR SHAH MOHSEN**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun.Dr Mahathir Mohamad has questioned the attitude and professionalism of some Pakatan Harapan (PH) lawmakers after a lack of quorum on Wednesday forced the Dewan Rakyat sitting to be delayed for two minutes.

The prime minister noted that this

was the second time in the current sitting that the number of MPs present in the House did not meet the quorum requirement.

"We will have to talk to the MPs," he told a press conference after attending the Employees Provident Fund International Social Well-being Conference 2019 yesterday.

"They (MPs) were very anxious to be candidates for the last general

election, but after being elected, they are not behaving as if they are serious about serving the people."

On Wednesday morning, the Dewan Rakyat sitting had to be delayed temporarily when only 24 MPs were present in the hall, two short of a quorum.

The bell had to be rung again to remind MPs to enter, before four more lawmakers were seen walking into the hall.

There was a similar situation on Oct 17.

Commenting on claims that the lack of quorum was a form of protest by PH lawmakers against his

leadership, Mahathir said there are many other ways for them to express their dissatisfaction.

"If they don't like me, they can say so openly.

"I am subject to criticism, because as leaders, one must expect to be criticised."

Asked if he would start taking down attendance of the MPs, Mahathir said this was already being practised.

Earlier in PUTRAJAYA, Mahathir said PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim agreed that there should not be too much tension on the date of power transition, Bernama reported.

"He (Anwar) understands the problems faced (by the country) and that there should not be too much tension by people making all kind of suggestions like the date of the transition," he said when asked by reporters on what transpired between him and Anwar in their meeting prior to the soft launch of Kuala Lumpur Summit 2019.

Meanwhile, Anwar, who is Port Dickson MP, posted on his Facebook page that their stand on the transition of power has not changed and it is as agreed by PH while the promise had been repeated several times by the prime minister.