

Review of regulatory bodies may see disbanding of Mavcom

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THE government is reviewing institutions and regulatory bodies, including the Malaysian Aviation Commission (Mavcom), to see if there is a need to disband them.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the review was necessary, and if there is a need, the government would do so.

"We are looking at everything. This is a new government and we will examine the institutions by the last government," he said at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

It was recently reported that Transport Minister Anthony Loke had told an investor forum that the government was mulling a restructure of regu-

latory bodies in the aviation sector.

Mavcom and the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia are two regulatory bodies in the sector.

Dr Mahathir said the government was reviewing business proposals on turning Malaysia Airlines Bhd around.

He said MAS was losing money even after undergoing changes.

"There have been many changes, ideas and management, but it is still losing money.

"But now, there are people who say they can turn MAS around. We will examine that.

"If you have any idea, you are welcome to share them (with the government)."

It was reported that the government had received four pro-

posals, mostly from local companies, for MAS' turnaround.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on a Facebook posting by his media and communications adviser, Datuk A. Kadir Jasin.

Kadir, a veteran journalist, had said that after 17 months of becoming the government, the time to advise the Pakatan Harapan government had ended and now was the time to "whack" it.

Dr Mahathir said Kadir's comments were fair.

"He or anyone can whack us. Our own people criticise us in Parliament, so it's okay if we are not doing the right thing.

"Everyone is whacking the government anyway, either through the media or social media (platform).

"Who else are you going to whack if it's not the government? You are not going to whack the opposition because they only know how to criticise."

On the Dewan Rakyat not having enough quorum recently due to the lack of PH members of parliament attending the proceedings, Dr Mahathir said a warning has been issued to parliamentarians from the pact.

He said the matter was discussed during a cabinet meeting and said it was nothing more than a disciplinary problem among the MPs.

"Lately, there have been many overseas meetings held, which required ministers to be abroad, while other MPs have their own problems.

"Most of the time they are in the Parliament building.

"It's just that they didn't go to the hall, which is why we can just ring the bell to call them in.

"This happens in any government.

"One time, I visited the American Congress and saw only one person talking and two others listening, but they never made the quorum issue a big deal.

"The quorum issue is raised due to political reasons."

Last Thursday, Dewan Rakyat proceedings were halted as there were not enough MPs at the hall.

The Dewan Rakyat Standing Order 13 states that there must be at least 26 MPs in the 222-seat lower house to allow proceedings to be held.