

**No Need To Amend Law, Public Can Punish Elected Reps By Not Voting For Them - Dr M  
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JOHOR BA HARU, Feb 13 (Bernama) -- The Election Commission (EC) does not need to amend the law to impose stiffer penalties on elected representatives who quit their post without a valid reason, but the public should instead punish such leaders by not voting for them.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the people could play an important role in stopping this malpractice by choosing the kind of leaders they really wanted to represent them.

"My opinion is that if they want to (controversially) quit, let them quit. We (Barisan Nasional) can put up a fight.

"There's no need to amend the law as the law cannot control everything. What are important are people's morals that come from a good heart. So, no misdeeds.

"If the people don't like it, make them loose (in the by-election)...teach them not to do it again," he said when asked on the EC's plan to study the need to impose heavier penalties on elected representatives who resign from the post without any plausible reason.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir presented the keynote address at the International Family Conference from the Global Perspective at the Persada International Convention Centre, here, today.

The EC has received various suggestions on tackling the issue following incumbent Kajang assemblyman Lee Chin Cheh suddenly vacating his seat on Jan 27 to make way for opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to contest the seat in a by-election.

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