



Public Statement: Attendance Records of Parliamentary Sittings in Malaysia Should Be Officially Published

We, the undersigned student organisations, wholeheartedly condemn the poor attendance of all of our incumbent Members of Parliaments (MPs) in Parliamentary sittings. We urge the Parliament to **publish the official attendance records of our MPs** through the Malaysian Parliament's website [1] or the Hansard [2] in order to hold them accountable for their duties to represent the interests of their respective constituencies.

Under Standing Order No 13 (1) of the Standing Orders of the Dewan Rakyat [3], a minimum number of 26 Members of Parliament (MPs) are required in the 222-seat Parliament to allow any proceedings to be held. Recent Parliamentary sessions have brought the attention of the public once again to how the quality of proceedings can and do suffer due to the low attendance of our MPs in Parliament. The main factor causing this low turnout is most likely due to the current lack of accountability of our MPs as there is no sustained public pressure pushing them to attend Parliamentary sittings. Data such as individual attendance and voting records of MPs are currently not being published officially and there is not much traction to remedy this situation. This is not a new phenomenon and as such, the poor attendance of MPs is a clear indication that reform is necessary.

A survey [4] conducted by the UKEC Executive Council has shown a general consensus amongst the Malaysian students in the UK and Eire to make the attendance records public so that MPs can be held accountable for their absence - separating those who actually have a valid excuse and those who are playing truant.

With over 6 decades of history, the Parliament acts as the main chamber of democracy for our nation and the aforementioned problem poses a threat to that very democracy. However, the threat does not stop there. Recent news [5,6] has reported how many of our MPs still refuse to acknowledge the gravity of this issue albeit being called out by many of their colleagues and media outlets. Parliament is a way for people to indirectly participate in their government by having their MPs be their representatives. However, with an attendance rate which is lower than half, is Parliament genuinely representing the democracy we should be so proud of?

All five of the student organisations below would like to collectively challenge our MPs to start taking their Parliamentary responsibilities more critically and publish the official attendance record of Parliamentary sittings.



United Kingdom and Eire Council for Malaysian Students

Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar Malaysia di United Kingdom dan Eire

Patron Y.A.Bhg Tun Daim Zainuddin S.S.M, D.H.M.S, S.P.M.S, S.S.A.P

Signed,



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Vice President of Advocacy for Malaysian Students Global Alliance 2019/2020

The individuals signing this statement are representing the stance that is being taken by their whole student organisation



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References:

- [1] <https://www.parlimen.gov.my/>
- [2] <http://www.parlimen.gov.my/hansard-dewan-rakyat.html?uweb=dr&arkib=yes>
- [3] https://www.parlimen.gov.my/images/webuser/peraturan_mesyuarat/PMDR-eng.pdf
- [4] <https://drive.google.com/open?id=19JJHq-BMMZjnM5gMNjD58v6Es9YImIhu>
- [5] <http://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/suhu-dewan-rakyat-sangat-sejuk-sukar-untuk-ahli-parlimen-duduk-lama-hanipa-maidin-223831>
- [6] <https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/pm-defends-low-attendance-mps-ministers-absence-parliament>