

WE'LL ACT ON CORRUPT MINISTERS, SAYS DR M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Government will not tolerate corruption among Ministers and their relatives, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"If any person is proved to be corrupt, the Government will take action," he said when asked about a report which had accused a Deputy Minister of being corrupt.

"We have not heard any-

thing about it (the report)," he said.

Mimbar Sosilist, the official organ of Partai Rakyat, has alleged that a Deputy Minister made a deal for 1,000 acres of timber land with the Pahang Consolidated company.

The report alleged that the Deputy Minister was asked by the Umno Sungei Lembing branch to mediate in the deal but instead the logging contract went to

Syarikat Sungei Lembing Jaya.

One of the owners of this company was purported to be the Deputy Minister's daughter.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: "If we can prove misuse, certainly action will be taken."

He said action had been taken in the past on such cases. He referred to (former Education Minister) Datuk Rahman Talib's case

in which the Minister's wife was involved.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said some people were also trying to find out if he himself was corrupt.

"They say I sold 70 per cent of a piece of land (in Kuala Lumpur) to Datuk Syed Kechik. But I owned that land even before I was a Minister," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who heads the Umno Disciplinary Committee, said he did not have much evidence on vote buying in Umno divisional elections.

"I do not think the problem is all that serious," he added.

He said the committee was investigating some divisions on alleged vote buying.