

MAHATHIR-KICKBACKS

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 23 ⁸²BERNAMA:--ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST HEADMASTERS INVOLVED IN THE \$5 MILLION KICK-BACKS ON TEXTBOOKS PURCHASE IF SUFFICIENT PROOF IS FORTHCOMING, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE COOPERATION OF THE PRESS IN GATHERING SUCH EVIDENCE.

+WITHOUT CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ACT,+ HE ADDED WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS ON THE MATTER.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD EARLIER ISSUED A DIRECTIVE PROHIBITING TEACHERS FROM INVOLVING IN BUSINESS INCLUDING DIRECT SALES OR BECOMING AGENTS OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.--BERNAMA MORE 1800/HM

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID FOR THE TIME BEING ACTION COULD NOT BE TAKEN AGAINST ANYONE AS THE PRESS REPORTS WHICH EXPOSED THE KICKBACKS WAS TOO GENERAL.

AS SUCH IT WAS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY THE CULPRITS UNLESS FURTHER EVIDENCE WAS FORTHCOMING.

ON TODAY'S REPORT IN A LOCAL PRESS THAT 15 SCHOOLS IN SELANGOR AND FEDERAL TERRITORY SUFFERED CRACKS ON THE WALLS AND CEILINGS, HE SAID IF THE SCHOOLS WERE IDENTIFIED, STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO REPAIR THEM.--BERNAMA 1803/HM