

KARPAL AND TAPES RIDDLE

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IPOH, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is curious about how DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh "seems to know so much" about video tapes taken from the house of former Dewan Rakyat Deputy Speaker D.P. Vijandran.

"He (Karpal Singh) said he did not have the tapes but he knew who the actor was and also the supporting cast (in the tapes)," the prime minister told newsmen amid laughter.

Dr Mahathir said that only four groups could have known about the contents of the tapes — Mr Vijandran, the police, the attorney-general and those who took them.

He said the thieves or burglars seemed to know about the tapes and went for them.

"But what we would like to know

He (Karpal Singh) said he did not have the tapes but he knew who the actor was and also the supporting cast (in the tapes) ... what we would like to know is who had informed Karpal Singh about the contents of the tapes and what is his connection with those who supplied him the information.

— Dr Mahathir

is who had informed Karpal Singh about the contents of the tapes and what is his connection with those who supplied him the information.

"Is he (Karpal Singh) prepared to tell the court so and so told him or is he going to say he received the tapes through the post," he added.

Dr Mahathir recalled Mr Karpal Singh saying that he received photographs through the post which he subsequently handed over to the police, but he noticed that he seemed to "know extensively" about the contents of the tapes.

Based on Mr Karpal Singh's knowledge of the tapes' contents, "it would seem that he had seen or at least knew the person or persons

who had seen the tapes," Dr Mahathir said.

If Mr Karpal Singh had received a letter which described everything, he should have surrendered it to the police, he said.

And if he was making allegations based on information received from telephone calls, he was being irresponsible, Dr Mahathir said.

The prime minister said the government would not act against anyone merely on the basis of accusations.

"If we do, we would have arrested Mr Karpal Singh. On the basis of accusations against him, we would have already arrested him but we do not work that way," he said.

To a question, Dr Mahathir said he would not repeat his accusation against Mr Karpal Singh in the Dewan Rakyat on Thursday.

When making the accusation, he had said he was using the same parliamentary privilege that Mr Karpal Singh enjoyed when levelling allegations against Mr Vijandran.

And Dr Mahathir had added that he would not repeat the accusation outside Parliament.

Dr Mahathir, on a three-day visit to Perak, later departed for Kuala Lumpur.