

# Tapes issue: Karpal asked to explain

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IPOH, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on MP for Jelutong Karpal Singh to explain how he knew so much about the contents of video tapes stolen from MP for Kapar, D.P. Vijandran, if "he did not have the tapes and had not seen them".

Speaking at a Press conference at the Sultan Azlan Shah airport before returning to Kuala Lumpur after a three-day official visit to the State, the Prime Minister said: "There are four parties who know about the contents of the tapes. They are Mr Vijandran himself, the police, the Attorney-General and the thieves who stole the tapes.

"The thieves seemed to know what were in the tapes and took them only.

"Of these four, who told Mr Karpal Singh? Was it the police, the Attorney-General, Mr Vijandran or the thieves? What is his connection with those who told him?

"Which of the four (who know) told him? This I want to know. This I am prepared to repeat outside (the Dewan Rakyat) because he claimed he knew outside and inside the Dewan Rakyat, but when we

asked him whether he had the tapes, he said 'no'."

Dr Mahathir was responding to Mr Karpal Singh's challenge to repeat outside Parliament the former's allegation in the Dewan Rakyat recently that he (Mr Karpal Singh) had masterminded the robbery in which the alleged pornographic tapes were stolen.

He reiterated that he would not repeat the allegation outside Parliament. "As I had said in Parlia-

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ment, I will not repeat it outside the House. What I want to know is who told him and what is his connection with the person who told him."

Dr Mahathir also asked Mr Karpal Singh whether he was prepared to tell the court who told him about the contents of the tapes and his connection with the person.

"He said he received the information through the

post but he said he had not seen the tapes. What he received through the post, he said he handed over to the police but that did not include the tapes.

"But he said that in the tapes, so and so acted, so and so was playing the supporting cast. All he knew. It sounds as though he had seen the tapes or at least know the person who had seen them.

"You must tell him. I mean, you can't tell through the post. You can send a letter which describes what you had seen but he had not surrendered the letter."

Referring to Mr Karpal Singh's explanation that he had also received information over the telephone, Dr Mahathir said: "On the basis of a phone call, if you make an allegation it shows that you have been very irresponsible."

The Prime Minister said the Government could have arrested Mr Karpal Singh on the basis of accusations against him but "we don't work on the basis of plain accusations because we must have the evidence".

"On the basis of all this, it seems Mr Karpal Singh knows more than all of us."