

# PM DAP has to prove it's a cover-up

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By SULOCHINI NAIR

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.** — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said it is up to the DAP to prove whether or not there was a cover-up in the Vijandran tapes issue.

Asked for his comments on allegations that Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu T&lib Othman was involved in a cover-up on the issue, he said since the DAP had made the allegations it was for the party to prove that there was a cover-up.

He added, however, that it should be remembered that the matter happened sometime ago and at the beginning it was just a theft of a safe.

The question of its contents was not raised.

Dr Mahathir said it was possible that focus was given to the crime of theft as the issue of the safe's contents was not raised.

"If it had been raised early, I am confident the police would have taken the necessary action."

Asked if the Attorney-General had referred to him for advice, Dr Mahathir said: "If all matters are to be referred to me, I won't be left with time for

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MAY HAVE TO BRIEF  
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other work. It was left to the discretion of the officers involved."

He said unless, someone could prove that an officer had made a mistake in the course of his duties, he was in no position to take action.

Speaking to reporters after inspecting a Rela parade in conjunction with Rela Day at the Police Training Centre here, Dr Mahathir said if the Opposition was sincere in wanting action against a crime like possession of pornographic tapes, it should have reported to the police as soon as it had the information and not brought the matter up in Parliament.

This, he said, would have enabled the police to take the normal action against anyone involved in a crime.

"But it is very clear here that the Opposition is not interested in righting a wrong but wants to get political mileage from the issue."

The Prime Minister said

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## Dr Mahathir: We must be fair

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many people had pornographic tapes in their possession and they were people in high places as well. However, there was no proof.

As such, why should one person be victimised? he asked.

Asked if the Government intended to ask Mr Vijandran, who is Deputy Dewan Rakyat Speaker, to go on leave because of the controversy, Dr Mahathir said he could not make any deci-

sions yet as it would not be fair to convict a person based on mere accusations.

"On the other hand, we will not have anyone who is proven to be involved in such activities in the Government. The matter has to be considered fairly."

Asked if it was possible that the Government would advise Mr Vijandran to go on leave to reduce tension in Parliament, the Prime Minister said the Opposition could at any time create tension by raising such issues.