

Dr M backs debate on palace issue

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. —
Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir
Mohamad feels that there
should be an open debate
on alleged palace involve-
ment in politics.

"I believe it should be
discussed in the open as
long as we do not contra-
vene the law," he told
newsmen.

The Prime Minister
said: "The law does not al-
low anyone to tarnish the
image of the Rulers. In
fact, not only the Rulers
but also the Government.
It is provided for in the
Sedition Act.

"Under the Act, anyone
who creates hatred
against the Government
has committed sedition
and action can be taken
against him.

"But we have not done
this because we feel it is
important for the people
to air their views about
the Government.

"If people cannot state
their views on an institu-
tion, there can be devi-
ations.

"The situation can grow
increasingly worse. So I
am all for open debate."