

U GE 23-03 00200 EG692

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RPTN: Replacing +It's regrettable+ with +I regret+
in para three. '''

GOVERNMENT WILL SEE THAT CODE OF CONDUCT BE OBSERVED

Mahathir-car

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KOTA BAHARU, March 23 ⁹² (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the government would see that the Code of Conduct for the Rulers which was being formulated by Umno be observed by those concerned.

The Prime Minister said that those in the upper echelon of society should set good examples to others by respecting the laws of the country.

+I regret when their actions are contrary to the laws because they should be setting good examples to the people. Such actions would jeopardise the laws and regulations,+ he said in response to questions from reporters here.

He was asked to comment on report of a member of a royalty from an east coast state removing a luxury car from the MAS cargo terminal at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang without settling \$2 million in import duty.

Regarding the car, a metallic blue Lamborghini, Dr Mahathir said the government would seize the car to ensure that the laws were observed.

--more.

▼23/03/23-44MST

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Mahathir-car 2 Kota Baharu

+We must act as far as we can so that others will not question us on why action was not taken against certain individuals when action was taken against those of lesser status,+ he said.

In the incident, the Customs were unable to prevent the car from being driven away because it involved a member of a royalty.

The Italian-made car was reportedly airfreighted by a MAS cargo flight from London two weeks ago.

Dr Mahathir also regretted Singapore's move to impose levy on Malaysian vehicles entering the republic.

He said this had created feeling of unfairness among Malaysians. --more.

▼23/03/23-45MST

R GE 23-03 00116 EG694

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Mahathir-car (last) 3 Kota Baharu

On the Pergau hydro-electricity project, he said works were proceeding as normal without interruption.

He said the federal government would pay compensation demanded by the Kelantan government if it deemed reasonable.

However, he said to-date no decision had been taken on the matter.

On the anti-tropical timber campaign in Japan undertaken by 14 members of non-governmental organisations, Dr Mahathir said the government could only expose those involved.

+The government cannot take any action, other than exposing them for fighting for the interest of non-Malaysians so that people can judge for themselves what sort of people they are,+ he said. --Bernama.