

Govt to act against royalty for evading \$2m import duty

By CHAN SIEW WAH

KOTA BARU: ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ said yesterday the Government will take action against a member of the Kelantan royalty for not paying \$2 million import duty on a luxury car.

"We will take the normal legal procedures. If the car can be repossessed, we will do it. We will do whatever is necessary to ensure that laws are complied with," the Prime Minister said when asked to comment on a Bernama report.

According to Bernama, a member of the royalty in an east coast state had removed the car, a Lamborghini, from the MAS cargo terminal at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

According to the report quoting Customs sources, duty on the car amounting to \$2 million had not been paid. The car was air-

freighted from London two weeks ago.

The sources said that the application for duty exemption was not approved because the member of royalty had used up his quota.

Dr Mahathir, who had been briefed on the incident, said he was disappointed that a high ranking person should have shown disrespect for the law.

"He should be setting a good example to the people on the importance of following regulations. This is a bad example to the people as it could affect law and order in the country," he said.

"We can be questioned as to why actions are not taken against certain quarters (for breaking the law) but only against people without positions.

"This is why a code of ethics is needed for the rulers," the Prime Minister said.