

Mara's \$28m purchase of membership

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PM expects full

By Syed Nadzri

PETALING JAYA, Tues. — Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** is expecting a full report on the purchase of membership rights of an exclusive golf club worth more than \$28 million by **Mara Holdings Sdn Bhd**.

He said he had yet to get full details of the purchase of the 450 membership rights of **Rahman Putra Club**, valued at \$63,000 each.

"I want to know why the purchase was made and whether it was properly planned," he told reporters after opening the **Optical Communication Engineering Sdn Bhd** plant here.

"Even if a move had been properly planned, sometimes it did not mean that it was a wise one," **Dr Mahathir** said when asked to comment on the issue by newsmen.

Asked whether the purchase was in line with **Mara's objectives**, he said there might be reasons behind it.

It was reported earlier this week that the purchase was approved by **Mara chairman Tamrin Ghafar** and **Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor**.

The **Rahman Putra Club** is located at **Sungai Buloh** near here and has a 36-hole golf course spreading over 114 hectares.

In a related development, **Tamrin** said **Mara Holdings** would explain the purchase

if there was a need to do so.

He said as far as he was concerned the purchase was done according to procedures and there was no irregularity.

Responding to questions from reporters at Parliament House today, **Tamrin** said he understood the Cabinet was already briefed on the matter.

"I cannot make any comment now as the Minister had already explained.

"If further explanation is needed, **Mara Holdings** will do so," he added.

Asked to comment on yesterday's fire at the **Penang Road Transport Department** which destroyed 500,000 vehicle registration files, **Dr Mahathir** said it should not have happened.

"Everything depends on regulations. If everyone had followed the regulations, it (the fire) would not have occurred," he added.

He suggested that Government departments keep duplicates of their records, especially in microfilms, which could be kept at another place.

A fire outbreak which destroyed important files could cause a lot of problems if there were no duplicates available elsewhere.

"A person who has not paid tax may even be able to escape. So we have to take extra precautions, maybe invest more in (beefing up) security," the Prime Minister added.

rights in golf club
report