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Cabinet discusses

C. Dr. Mohan

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. -- The Cabinet views very seriously any assault on individuals by anyone irrespective of rank or status, the Prime Minister's office said today.

In a three-paragraph statement, it said the Cabinet at its weekly meeting today took a very serious view of any assault on individuals under whatever circumstances by any person irrespective of rank or status.

It said where such an assault had taken place, the law must be allowed to take its course, adding that no cover-up would be tolerated.

Although the statement did not refer to any particular incident, it is clear that the alleged assault on a Perak hockey player at the Sukma in Johor last month was one such case.

In the July 10 incident, the goalkeeper of the Perak team, Mohamed Jaafar Mohamed Vello, was allegedly kicked and slapped by Tengku Abdul Majid Idris, a son of the Sultan of Johor.

The full text of the Prime Minister's office statement read: "The Cabinet at its meeting today, among other things, took a very serious view of any assault on individuals under whatever circumstances by any person irrespective of rank or status.

"Where such an assault has taken place, the law must be allowed to take its course.

"No cover-up will be tolerated."

Meanwhile, in Petaling Java, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Mohamed Noor said police would leave no stone unturned in their investigation of the alleged assault.

He said a special team from the Federal police headquarters had been assigned to the task.

"According to the report (lodged by Mohamed Jaafar in Ipoh on July 30), there was an assault, and we are pursuing the matter," he said.

"We will question all the relevant people," he told reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport after sending off 30 policemen bound for Cambodia to join the United Nations peacekeeping force.

He said any action to be taken against the Johor prince would depend on the evidence and directive from the Attorney-General's Chambers.

The incident was said to have taken place after the hockey final in which Perak defeated Johor 4-2 in a penalty shootout.

Mohamed Jaafar, who was the Perak goalkeeper, alleged he was kicked and slapped by Tengku Abdul Majid in the dressing room soon after the game.

Criminal Investigation Department director Datuk Mohamed Zaman Khan said police would record a statement from Tengku Abdul Majid.

"We are making arrangements to see him," he said.

assault