

Prove it and we'll act: PM

By ROHAIZAD A. RAHIM

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will take action against civil servants who leak secret information to opposition parties, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said their actions only served to damage the Government's image as such information would only be politicised.

Citing the Maika-Telekom share scandal and Kuala Lumpur City Hall's \$2.5 million purchase of 22 Volvos, he said the matter should have been reported to the Government.

"We will take action if there are wrongdoings in the administration," he said after flagging off the Petronas Rally of Malaysia '92.

Dr Mahathir said despite the DAP sensationalising the issues, the Government would still take action if the matters were proven to be true.

"I am disappointed because they (the civil servants) feel that the opposition can do more about such matters than the Government," he said.

"If such matters were reported to us and we find that it is wrong, action will be taken.

"However, these people are only interested in politicising the matter and out to damage the Government's image."

Dr Mahathir also asked the City Hall Employees Union to furnish proof of its allegations that senior officials of City Hall had leaked the information to the opposition.

"We cannot act just on hearsay. Give us the proof and if we find it to be right, we will take action."

On City Hall's purchase of the 22 Volvos, Dr Mahathir said he would not interfere as it could hamper investigations.

He also dismissed Semangat 46's call to amend the Constitution to allow minors to convert to Islam without their parents' consent on reaching puberty.

Semangat 46, in response to Dr Mahathir's criticism of DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang on sensitive issues, said the Barisan should use its majority in the Dewan Rakyat to amend the Constitution for this purpose.

"These people (Semangat) want to support DAP but needs PAS' support," Dr Mahathir said.

"They can live underwater and in the air," he added, describing the call as nothing more than a political gimmick.