

# Aussie bribe claim

on its part, if it does not seem to be aware of what one of its own agencies is doing," he said.

In Kota Kinabalu, Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan said if the allegation was true, then the Federal Government must conduct a full-scale investigation and take appropriate action against the opposition leaders involved.

"I do not know anything about this but if it did happen, it is a bad thing as it is against the country's interest," he told reporters.

In Penang, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said in a statement that party leaders would meet the Australian High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow over the allegation.

He will lead the delegation to the meeting at 1.30pm.

He also urged Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating either to reveal the names of the Malaysian politicians who had received bribes or to take responsibility for what he said was a "preposterous allegation".

He said Keating should tender a public apology to

senior opposition politicians whose reputation and integrity had been besmirched by the allegation.

He added that although the DAP had called for the establishment of a Joint Public Commission of Inquiry by the Malaysian and Australian Governments, it was also in the national interest for Malaysia to institute an inquiry to establish the truth following the allegation.

Penang DAP chairman and Jelutong MP Karpal Singh said the Sydney-based newspaper, the *Sunday Telegraph*, should be prepared to face the consequences for its role in publishing the article.

He said the contents of the article amounted to charging opposition MPs including DAP MPs with disloyalty to the country and even treason.

"It was also most unfair of the newspaper not to name the MPs concerned as by making a general statement, this only resulted in making every opposition MP in Malaysia and Singapore a suspect," he said.

In the interest of preserving their good relations with

Malaysia and Singapore, Karpal also urged the Australian Government to name the MPs concerned.

At the same time, he said the Malaysian High Commission in Australia should also lodge a protest to the Australian Government about the allegation because it represented not only the Malaysian Government, but all Malaysians including members of the opposition parties.

In Kota Baru, Kelantan Semangat 46 liaison chief Mohd Rozali Isohak said:

"It is a serious allegation which politicians should view seriously and investigate."

He said although it could happen, it was too far-fetched and doubted any politician in the country was involved.

However, Rozali, who is also the Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar II, said an investigation should be carried out to expose whoever was involved.

Semangat 46 information chief Ahmad Shabery Chik called for the setting up of an independent commission to investigate the allegation.