

Government orders probe

**By Saiful Azhar
Abdullah**

LANGKAWI, Thurs. — The Government has ordered an investigation into an allegation that the Malacca Chief Minister and Umno Youth leader, Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, has been involved with a 15-year-old schoolgirl.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that certain Government agencies had been told to conduct the investigation.

If the accusation is true, the Government would decide on what action to take against the Chief Minister once it had received the official report, he said.

Abdul Rahim was quoted later as saying that there should be an investigation to establish the truth, and that he would co-operate.

Dr Mahathir said Abdul Rahim met him yesterday to give an explanation, and had denied there was any basis to the allegation. However, the Government wanted to establish the truth from third parties.

"He met me just to say that there was no truth in the allegation ... that's his version. I have to know from third parties," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters after opening the 16th Ascan Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry meeting at Langkawi Island Resort.

Reporters had asked him if he had received any report about Abdul Rahim's personal problems, and about the allegation that the Chief Minister was involved with an underaged girl.

The Prime Minister said that officially he had not received any report on the allegation but he had "heard stories about it".

He said he could not pass judgment before he received a detailed report.

"If I make a judgment

QUOTE

HE met me just to say that there was no truth in the allegation ... that's his version. I have to know from third parties.

— Dr Mahathir Mohamad

QUOTE

I AM ready to co-operate at anytime to establish the truth. I agree with the Prime Minister that there should be an investigation to establish the truth and arrest the speculation.

— Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik

now, it will look unfair," he said. "If we obtain information that the allegation is true, we will take action. For the moment, I am not going to make any further comment."

When it was suggested to the Prime Minister that this was not the first time Abdul Rahim had been the subject of scandalous allegations, Dr Mahathir said the relevant agencies were investigating.

Abdul Rahim yesterday denied a newspaper report that he had personal problems that required him to resign as Umno Youth leader and Chief Minister of Malacca. He said the report was speculative and he would investigate its source.

Bernama, reporting from Alor Star, quoted Abdul Rahim as saying he would co-operate in any investigation into his personal conduct.

"I am ready to co-operate at anytime to establish the truth," he said.

"I agree with the Prime Minister that there should be an investigation to establish the truth and arrest the speculation.

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Megat Junid: Unaware of any police report against Rahim

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"It is better that an investigation be made into the allegation."

Abdul Rahim was speaking to reporters after attending the closing of a Kedah Umno State-level work camp in Alor Star.

In Kuala Lumpur today, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob said he did not know of any police report alleging that an Umno leader had

molested a girl.

He said at his office at the Prime Minister's Department that if the girl had lodged a police report the police would carry out the usual investigations before bringing the case to court.

A spokesman at the Federal police headquarters said no such report had been made. He added that police were investigating the source of the speculation.