

# PM: Those with info should lodge report

By Alex Choong and Sharanjit Singh

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today those with information connected to the allegation that Malacca Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik had an affair with a 15-year-old girl should lodge a police report.

This would help in the investigation, the Prime Minister said in response to questions by newsmen, as to whether a police report from those with information could facilitate investigations.

However, he agreed with the Attorney-General Datuk Mohtar Abdullah that the police could proceed with its probe even if no report was lodged.

Asked if he was expecting to get a report on the investigation, Dr Mahathir said: "If the authority carries out an investigation, it will furnish me with a report."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to newsmen after witnessing the 3rd Asean Show Jumping Competition held at the Awana Horse Ranch. (Picture on page 48)

The Attorney-General had said yesterday that the police could begin investigation into the affair based on information from an anonymous source or even media reports. They could do it even if there was no police report.

Mohtar was responding to Federal Police Criminal Investigation Department director Commissioner Mohamad Said Awang's statement at a Press conference on Friday that police could not act because the allegations were based on rumours and that there was no police report lodged.

Mohtar had felt that it was "very important in this case" that the allegation be investigated "to clear the person's name".

Meanwhile, in Baling, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the country's leadership was not mounting a campaign to pressure Rahim to quit, over the allegations of his involvement with the girl.

Najib, who is also Umno vice-president, said as far as he knew there were no efforts by the leadership to remove Rahim from his posts despite the allegations which were widely publicised by the media.

"I am not aware of any effort by the leadership mounting a campaign to pressure him (Rahim) to quit on political grounds and Raja Ariffin can testify to that," he said referring to Baling MP and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Raja Ariffin Raja Sulaiman who was also present at the interview.

Najib was asked to comment on the matter following Rahim's statement that if the leadership wanted him to resign, there was no need to use the mass media.

Speaking after launching the Baling divisional election committee here, Najib said the matter was now being handled by the police who were conducting their own investigations.

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