

19 JUN 1998

ACTION AGAINST ERIC CHIA IF THERE IS PROOF, SAYS MAHATHIR/BM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today action will be taken against former Perwaja executive chairman Tan Sri Eric Chia if there is proof that he is responsible for the losses suffered by the steel company.

"I believe that if there is proof, action will be taken," he told reporters when asked to comment on a call at the Umno Youth annual meeting yesterday that Chia be brought to book in connection with the case.

He said the government would abide by the law in the matter.

"We need adequate proof, we are not a country that acts on suspicion and without proof," he said.

"We have shown that even if the person is our crony, we take action. Throughout Umno's history, when a minister is found guilty, action is taken against him. Action has been taken against several menteri besar," he said.

Asked on the latest development in the investigation, he said: "They do not report to me."

-- BERNAMA

ES WAT JK