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LET AUTHORITIES PROBE ALLEGED SIPHONING OF RM36.5 MILLION FROM FUND,  
SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 6 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he would leave it to the authorities concerned to investigate the alleged siphoning of RM36.5 million from the development fund for the hardcore poor.

"I do not wish to comment as the matter is under investigation," he told reporters when approached on the matter after tabling the 2002 Supply Bill at the Dewan Negara here today.

The people under investigation have not been proven to have committed any wrong-doing or otherwise, he said.

"We let those authorised to conduct investigation and do the questioning to carry out their task. If there is really a case to answer the people involved would be brought to court," he said.

Yesterday police questioned four men in connection with the case.

Meanwhile, four current and former senior officials of the Rural Development Ministry, Terengganu Tengah Development Board (Ketengah) and Risda were remanded by the Magistrate's Court here today to help in police investigations.

Two of them -- a former secretary-general of the ministry and a Ketengah senior official -- were remanded for five days while the other two, a senior ministry official and a former Risda director-general, were remanded for three days.

-- BERNAMA

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