

MAHATHIR-DAYABUMI

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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 20 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY THAT POTENTIAL BIDDERS FOR ALL FUTURE TURNKEY PROJECTS OF THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (UDA) MUST CONFORM WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP).

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A BOLT FASTENING CEREMONY AND BRIEFING AT THE DAYABUMI PROJECT SITE HERE, SAID UDA HAD ALREADY PREPARED THESE COMPREHENSIVE TENDER DOCUMENTS.

IT WOULD BE USED FOR THE PHASE FIVE OF THE DAYA BUMI PROJECT WHICH INVOLVED THE URBAN RENEWAL OF THE CENTRAL MARKET AREA.

HE SAID THE DAYABUMI PROJECT WAS THE FIRST TURNKEY PROJECT AND SO NOT MANY CONDITIONS WERE LAID OUT IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS.

BUT WITH THE EXPERIENCE GATHERED, UDA HAD NOW COME OUT WITH THESE DOCUMENTS WHICH WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY USED FOR ALL ITS FUTURE TURNKEY PROJECTS, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO CONSIDER EMULATING THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR ITS PROJECTS HE ADDED.

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE NEW CONDITIONS WOULD ALSO REQUIRE THAT CONTRACTORS ADHERE TO OTHER PARAMETERS SUCH AS ENGINEERING DESIGNS AND OTHER COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

HE SAID THE CONDITIONS WERE GENERAL RULES AND CONTRACTORS COULD CHOOSE THE SPECIFICATIONS THEY LIKED.

HOWEVER ALTHOUGH THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR THE FOR EARLIER PHASES OF THE DAYABUMI PROJECT DID NOT EMPHASISE THE NEP, THE CONTRACTORS HAD ADHERED TO IT.

HE SAID 33 PER CENT OF THE WORKFORCE COMPRISED BUMIPUTERAS AND THESE INCLUDED TWO ENGINEERS AND MANY SKILLED WORKERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD ADVISED UDA TO LEASE OUT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROJECTS IT COULD NOT HANDLE BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS.

BUT SUCH LEASING MUST BENEFIT BOTH UDA AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HE ADDED. HE SAID UDA HAD EARMARKED TWO OR THREE PROJECTS FOR

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID WORK ON THE TOWER BLOCK WAS 45 DAYS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WHO TOURED THE SITE, SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE SITE. THIS HAD KEPT ACCIDENTS TO A MINIMAL.

HE URGED LOCAL CONTRACTORS TO ALSO ADOPT SIMILAR PRECAUTIONS AT THEIR WORKSITES.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ AND SENIOR STAFF OF THE JAPANESE CONTRACTORS TAKENAKA KUMAGAI AND RESILIENT TOOK PART IN A BOLT-FASTENING CEREMONY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THEN WITNESSED THE HOISTING OF A STEEL BEAM TO TOP THE TOWER. -- BERNAMA 1325/OM