

# Govt wants a complete telecoms system: P.

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PETALING JAYA, Tues. — The Government has agreed to spend millions of ringgit on having a complete telecommunications system as this is closely related to national development, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We are aware that without a good communications system national development will be adversely affected," he added.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the launching of Rimman International Sdn Bhd which is involved in computerised mapping and facilities management systems.

The company, like Binafon Telecommunications Sdn Bhd which is active in the field of telecommunications, is a subsidiary of Kumpulan AKZ.

On the four contractors, one of which is Binafon, selected by the Telecoms Department to carry out the local cable network expansion programme on a turnkey basis, he said the department would only have to supervise the work of these companies.

The four companies, on the other hand, will be responsible for supervising the work of their own sub-contractors.

He said that small companies might not be happy with the decision to give the job to the big companies. But he added that one could not run away from the fact that there would be some "who will be unhappy with whatever we do."

He was happy that the four Bumiputera companies doing the job were all set up as a result of the New Economic Policy. However, he said, this did not mean that their business should be limited to Government jobs.

Instead, they should instead consider themselves as Malaysian companies and their success should depend on their efficiency and capability and not because of their Bumiputera status.

He also said that Government contracts would not be available forever and if they were efficient, customers would not worry whether they were Bumiputera or non-Bumiputera companies.

On the system being used by Rimman International, he said other companies could venture into the same business.

But he felt that there was no need for too many companies, running the same type of business as their market share would be divided.