

PM: Petronas did offer State firms equity

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PETRONAS had offered equity participation to two State Government subsidiaries in the Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) project, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He denied that Petronas did not offer shares in its joint venture projects to State Government subsidiaries.

He said in the MTBE project the State Government subsidiaries had pulled out even before the project started.

The project has since been completed and production of MTBE started at the end of last year.

He was replying to Ibrahim Jendol (BN-Alor Gajah) who wanted to know why Petronas had not offered its equity to the State Government's subsidiaries in any joint venture project and whether Petronas had plans to offer equity participation to them.

The Prime Minister told the House that Petronas had offered equity to the Sarawak Government in joint venture projects such as

Malaysia Liquefied Natural Gas and LNG-II projects.

Besides these two projects, the State Government also held equity in the Middle Distillate Synthesis (MDS), a joint venture project between Petronas and Shell Malaysia.

He said the Government had no intention, at the moment to privatise Petronas.

Dr Mahathir said Petronas was taking steps to list one of its subsidiaries, Petronas Dagangan Sdn Bhd, on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

Replying to a separate question by Tan Kok Wai (DAP-Sungai Besi) who wanted to know the progress of the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Master Plan (KLMP), Dr Mahathir said the plan had been adjusted to suit current development needs.

"From a technical point of view the plan, which was gazetted in August 1984, has to be reviewed after 10 years to streamline strategies, objectives and policies since it was a 20-year plan.