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GOVT HOPES TO CREATE BUMIPUTERA BUILDING CONTRACTORS IN 5-10 YEARS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- The government hopes it will be able to create Bumiputera building contractors with potential and integrity who would be able to compete beside non-Bumiputera contractors in the open market.

The Finance Ministry's government procurement secretary Datuk Haji Abdul Aziz Muhamad said today it was also hoped that they would command the expertise and technology in the building industry.

Contractors of integrity would be offered projects through restricted tenders or direct discussions with the Finance Ministry, he said in a paper presented at the Bumiputera Contractors Convention here.

"The government will do its best to ensure that these contractors have continuous jobs in a specified period," he added.

Abdul Aziz also said contractors awarded projects were required to be fully devoted to the work; those who failed to discharge their responsibilities by handing over the project to another company would face action, like the withdrawal of their status as contractors of integrity.

So far, nine such contractors have had their status withdrawn and 14 others were being investigated, he added.

He said: "Contractors of integrity who are awarded projects are required to give guidance and transfer knowledge and technology to smaller contractors through suitable sub-contracts.

"Contractors of integrity who only depend on government for projects without making an effort to vie for open tenders, or fail to offer more competitive prices, thus, failing to be considered by government agencies must be scrutinised and reviewed."

He also said whatever objectives or strategies set out could not be fully realised without cooperation from all quarters, whether government or the contractors themselves.

Contractors of integrity and other Bumiputera contractors must cooperate to mutually strengthen themselves so that they need no longer depend solely on the government, he added.

As emphasised by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, "so long as Bumiputera contractors fail to compete in the open market they could not be considered to be successful," he said.

The two-day convention was jointly organised by the Contractors Service Centre of the Ministry of Entrepreneur development and the Malay Contractors Association. -- BERNAMA

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