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Anwar-Contract

ANWAR SAYS ALLEGATIONS MADE OF MALPRACTICE IN TELECOM CONTRACTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today he had received a "preliminary report" on allegations of malpractice in the award of telecommunications contracts in the country.

He said if the allegations were true, then action would be taken against those involved.

Anwar, who is the Finance Minister, said he had informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the matter before he left for the United States to promote the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

"Both the Prime Minister and I have discussed the matter and if there were malpractices, appropriate action will be taken," he told reporters after chairing the Cabinet Committee on Essential Goods.

He was responding to a question from a reporter.

"So far, we do not have information which would enable us to take action since it is too general and insufficient to verify claims of irregularities in awarding telecommunications tenders," he said.

Anwar said he had directed the contract division of the Finance Ministry to "talk to Telekom Malaysia" so that all procedures were fully observed and transparent.

"The CEO (chief executive officer of Telekom Malaysia Datuk Mohd Said Mohd Ali) was alerted before he left for the United States together with the Prime Minister," he said. -- BERNAMA

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