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DAP calls for Royal Commission of Inquiry

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The DAP today called for the setting up of a full Royal Commission of Inquiry to determine whether there had been political interference and favouritism in the RM2 billion Telekom Malaysia Berhad tender award.

Deputy secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said the DAP had raised Telekom's award of four million digital lines to five companies as early as March 1992.

He said a Royal Commission was necessary as there was confusion over which Minister was actually responsible for approving the contract.

Lim, who is also MP for Kota Melaka, said only the commission could determine which Minister was actually responsible for the scandal.

On Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Government had ordered an investigation into alleged discrepancies in the award of a contract by Telekom Malaysia to Ericsson for the supply of equipment.

Anwar said the Government had first received information about alleged discrepancies some two weeks ago.

He said he had briefed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad before he left for the United States last Sunday and it was decided that punitive action should be taken if there had been any abuse or mismanagement.

In Malacca, Lim, who is also MP for Kota Melaka, took the Malacca Museums Corporation to task for delaying repairs on the RM4.97 million Maritime Museum although the 1994 Auditor-General Report had recommended that it do so earlier.

He said the repairs should have been conducted earlier as the 1994 Report had stated that there had been leaks at the museum, which is a replica of the Flor de la Mar, since it was completed and opened to the public on June 14, 1994.

"Repairs should have been conducted earlier and not this year when RM250,000 of the taxpayers money will have to be spent," he said.

He was commenting on a report that the museum would be undergoing a RM250,000 facelift starting next month.

Lim added the Auditor General's report also stated that the State Works Department had also failed to confiscate the completion of contract bond totalling RM143,250 from the contractors had who failed to have the museum completed on time.

"I understand there there was a fire at the museum last year as the result of a short circuit. This would not have happened if the repairs had been carried out earlier."

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