

06 SEP 1997

Mahathir-Bakun

EKRAN SUPPOSED TO INFORM ABB, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Ekran Bhd, the project manager of the Bakun Hydroelectric dam project, was to have written to Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) informing them of the termination of the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

Speaking at a press conference after the second day of the Umno general assembly, he said: "As far as as I know, Ekran was supposed to have written to them."

The prime minister was responding to a report from Europe quoting ABB's chief executive Goran Lindahl, who last night claimed that the Swiss-Swedish company has not been notified of the cancellation of the contract.

"Whether they received it or not, it is a different matter to the ABB-CBPO consortium.

"I know for certain Ekran has sent them a letter to explain." Dr Mahathir said.

Certain aspects of the RM13.6-billion EPC contract has been a subject of dispute between Ekran and the consortium (Asea Brown Boveri-Companhia Brasileira de Projectos Obras).

The prime minister yesterday said that Ekran has the right to terminate the contract and look for a new partner for the EPC contract.

The project is one of three big ones identified by the government which will now be delayed following the depreciation of the ringgit. -- BERNAMA  
AD DVS rn