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NO CLASH IN UNDERSTANDING WITH BAKUN'S MAIN CONTRACTOR, SAYS TING

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- There is no clash in understanding between the developer of the Bakun hydro project, Bakun Hydro-Electric Corporation Bhd, and the main contractor, ABB-CBPO Consortium, said Bakun Hydro and Ekran Bhd executive chairman Tan Sri Ting Pek Khiing.

"Don't make imaginations on this thing," he said in a media conference after the signing ceremony between Bakun Hydro and 54 local financial institutions to underwrite 375 million shares offered by the company to the public at RM2 per share here today.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"There is no change in the understanding between ABB and the four companies that we have," Ting said when asked about ABB's intention for an open tender process in appointing sub-contractors for many works to be done for the RM15.5 project.

The four companies he referred to are Wembley Industries Holdings Bhd, PWE Industries Bhd, Pacific Chemicals Bhd and Granite Industries Bhd which Ting controls.

Ting said there was no award to the four companies but there is an understanding that they are the leading contractors for the local portion of the Bakun contracts.

He said for ABB to ask for an open tender process is normal in order, for example, to check the market value of the job to be done.

"ABB has the right to do that and this applies to all the sub-contracts," he said.

However, he added: "Having an open bidding does not mean that the contract goes to you, it will go to the 2,400 local companies that registered with us."

The contracts are not to the four companies but for the 2,400 contractors registered with Ekran Bhd, he reiterated. Ekran is the single biggest shareholder of Bakun Hydro.

Ting said it is very important that Malaysian companies be given at least 40 percent of the total jobs in the project.

Dr Mahathir said that any project to be done in Malaysia must have maximum local participation.

"Local participants can participate but there are not very many with certain capabilities.

"What we are saying is that we want to see local contractors get the maximum number of contracts provided. Of course, this is reasonable," he said. -- BERNAMA

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