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PM SAYS ALLEGATIONS ON TENDER AWARD SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED

By: Salmy Hashim

PALO ALTO (California), Jan 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said allegations of discrepancies in the award of a Telekom Malaysia Berhad contract to Swedish company Ericsson Telecommunications Sdn Bhd for the supply of equipment must be investigated.

"I do not have much information. If there is an allegation, we should investigate," he told Malaysian journalists covering his week-long visit to California to promote Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) here on Thursday.

He was asked about reports of an investigation into the allegations.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim confirmed to reporters in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday that the government was inquiring into the possibility of discrepancies in the tender award.

Ericsson said in a statement yesterday that it had not been officially informed of the nature of the allegations but it reaffirmed its commitment to "maintaining a high standard of business ethics".

Telekom Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali, who is a member of the delegation accompanying the Prime Minister, also issued a statement yesterday promising a full investigation into the allegations.

Dr Mahathir declined further comment on the allegations.

"Since it has not been resolved, I should not comment," he said.

Asked whether Anwar had briefed him on the matter, Dr Mahathir said: "Anwar has mentioned but not in detail." -- BERNAMA

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