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Anwar-Telekom

TELEKOM CONTRACT AWARD INVESTIGATION SHOWS 'BASIS TO PROBE DEEP'

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- The investigation into alleged impropriety in the award of a contract by Telekom Malaysia Berhad to Swedish multinational Ericsson shows there is "basis" to probe further, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

"There is basis, for example, in terms of transparency or procedures that need to be observed.

"Based on the preliminary reports submitted, I think they will have to probe deep," he told reporters after opening a conference on Over-The-Counter (OTC) Markets here.

He was asked to comment on the progress of the investigation after he had stated a month ago it was "urgent".

Asked if there was any proof of discrepancies from the initial reports submitted, Anwar said it was premature for him to comment whether there had been any breach in the tender award.

He said he expected the final report on the investigation to be completed soon.

Anwar said he had been given updated reports on the investigation and the latest progress report was submitted to him last week.

"We have asked them (the investigators) to speed up," he said.

Anwar, who is the Finance Minister, had said on Jan 18 that Telekom and the Treasury had been instructed to expedite the investigation.

He had said it was not necessary to take too much time because all the records of the contract, said to be awarded between 1992 and 1993, are still available.

On the investigation into alleged log smuggling in Tawau, Sabah, recently, he said the initial reports had been submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We will have to wait until the completion of the reports," he said.

Anwar, who had ordered the probe, said he was quite impatient and wanted the matter to be cleared "sooner the better". -- BERNAMA

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