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Telekom-Investigation

TELEKOM MALAYSIA TO CONDUCT FULL INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Telekom Malaysia Berhad has promised a full investigation into allegations of discrepancies in the award of a contract to Swedish company Ericsson Telecommunications Sdn Bhd for the supply of equipment.

"This is a serious allegation and Telekom Malaysia will do everything in its power to get to the truth," said chief executive officer Datuk Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali.

Mohamed Said, who is in the United States accompanying Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on a tour to promote Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor, said this in a statement released by the company here today.

He said he was told of the matter before leaving on the tour by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Immediately on being alerted by the Deputy Prime Minister, Telekom Malaysia has taken action to make a thorough inquiry into these allegations," he said.

Anwar said yesterday the government had ordered an investigation into the alleged discrepancies after receiving information about them two weeks ago.

Mohamed Said said the company could not give a specific time frame for the investigation since it did not have sufficient facts on the matter at this stage.

He said it would be a top priority for Telekom Malaysia to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

"As far as Telekom Malaysia is concerned, we have always adhered to our established procedures on receiving, considering and awarding of tenders," he said.

Meanwhile, Ericsson, said in a statement that it had not been officially informed or received any indication as to the nature of the allegations.

"Neither do we have information that tender procedures have been overlooked," it said in the statement entitled "Ericsson Regrets Allegation".

However, the company said, it wished to reaffirm its commitment to "maintaining a high standard of business ethics".

"This has always been maintained in our long relationship with Telekom Malaysia, as well as with all other customers," the statement said.

"In Malaysia, Ericsson has been providing telecommunications infrastructure and facilities since 1965. It began with a contract to supply, install, test and commission the first crossbar exchange to Jabatan Telekom Malaysia.

"Ericsson has since developed a long term relationship with Telekom Malaysia as a supplier of public telecommunications equipment and has been a major contributor to the current state-of-the-art telephone network." --
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