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Annuar-Youth

BIG COMPANIES MUST ALSO BE HELPED DURING ECONOMIC DOWNTOWN

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- The big companies also need help besides the small ones during the current economic downturn because of their huge contributions to national development, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa said today.

He said Umno Youth's call to the government to leave out the big companies and concentrate on helping the small ones was a step that could be detrimental to the country's interests.

"The big companies pay huge taxes to the country. If a company chalks up RM300 million profits, 30 per cent of it is paid to the government in taxes.

"This alone is enough to fund projects under the Development Programme for the Hardcore Poor run by my ministry and it does not include other contributions like job opportunities for the people through the projects," he told reporters at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Annuar also said that Umno Youth should not have raised the issue of nepotism and cronyism if it did not have solid proof.

"I'm not impressed with the way Umno Youth spoke on cronyism and nepotism without furnishing proof and instead accusing corporate of forgetting themselves after achieving success," he said.

Asked whether he would challenge Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi for the post of Umno Youth leader next year, he said he would decide when the time comes.

He said all the members should now focus on helping party president and prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad turn the economy around and not on party posts.

-- BERNAMA

MT WAT JK