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Most States ready to disclose names

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Most State Governments are prepared to name the recipients of privatised projects.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had yesterday reiterated that the Government would make further disclosures if that was what the people wanted.

He said this at EON's appreciation ceremony for its millionth customer at the company's headquarters.

Asked if disclosures of companies awarded privatised contracts and individuals given special share allocations would now be the norm when new contracts are awarded, he had said: "Yes. If that is the wish of the people, we will do so."

In Selangor, Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the State Government was willing to make public the recipients of the State-level privatised projects.

He said the State Government was willing to do so to dispel any allegations of favouritism.

"We have nothing to hide as all the privatised projects were awarded to qualified companies and those with capacity to carry out the job well.

"Even now, the State Government is already looking at the list in anticipation of the move. However, so far no one has asked the State Government to do so," he added.

In Ipoh, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said the State Government had no plans to make public the list of recipients of privatised projects in view of the limited number of such projects.

However, he added if there was any party which wanted to have access to it, they could discuss with the Government.

In Kangar, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said the State Government was prepared to disclose names of individuals and companies awarded projects and share allocations.

But he said there must be a public request for it.

"The Government has no problem of acceding to the request as it has been proper in its dealings," he added.

In Terengganu, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said the State Government was willing to disclose the list of companies which had been awarded projects.

He said the State Government would produce the list if any quarter requested it.

"In addition, companies that are awarded various projects in the State are based on their merits and capability to carry out the projects.

"So far, Terengganu has no problem on the issue of transparency as we have been practising it and the State Government has nothing to hide," he said.

In Kota Kinabalu, Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said awards of Government contracts and approval of privatisation deals in Sabah were not a secret as these were known to the public.

He said only a few State agencies had been privatised and this had been made known to the public.

"Therefore the question of making public, government privatisation deals and awards of contracts does not arise," he said.

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