

21/06/1999

Four gained the most from privatization programme (HL)

DATUK Kamaruddin Jaafar, Encik Mohd Nor Mutalib, Datuk Ahmad Nazri Abdullah and Datuk Khalid Ahmad would seem to have benefited the most from the Government's privatization programme, according to the list of privatized projects awarded by the Economic Planning Unit up to June 15 this year.

The four Malay individuals were named in the list as principal shareholders of privatized projects with a total value of some RM25 billion.

Their names were released together with others in a list extracted from the Treasury and displayed at the three-day 53rd Umno General Assembly which ended yesterday.

The list contains the names of 6,440 private limited companies and 27 companies involved in privatization projects.

Kamaruddin was named as principal shareholder in the RM10 billion Kuala Lumpur Linear City and the RM1.29 billion KL Rapid People Mover (PRT). He was also a shareholder in the RM19.06 million privatization of Sabah Shipyard through Westmont Industries.

Mohd Nor, Ahmad Nazri and Khalid were listed as principal shareholders of several companies that were awarded contracts for several major projects.

These include the RM713 million Kuala Lumpur Sentral (KL Sentral), the RM3.7 billion Sistem Televisyen Malaysia Bhd or TV3 broadcasting station, and the RM650 million Satellite Network Services through Cableview Services Sdn Bhd which offers paid-television network.

The three were also listed as major shareholders in several independent power producer (IPP) projects in the country. The projects involved were the RM3.7 billion IPP Lumut, IPP Port Dickson (RM650 million), IPP Malawa, Sabah (RM200 million) and the RM5.87 billion IPP Perak project through TNB Janamanjung Sdn Bhd.

Together with Encik Azmi Jaafar, the three were also listed as major shareholders in a privatized project awarded to Radicare Sdn Bhd that offers supporting services to hospitals.

Mohd Nor and Nazri were also listed as principal shareholders in Silex Sdn Bhd, a construction company which was awarded a contract worth RM1 billion to build the Ipoh-Lumut Expressway.

Others with interests in privatized projects worth in excess of RM1 billion as of last week include Datuk Dr Wan Hasni Wan Sulaiman, Encik Abdul Rahim Ghouse, Datuk Anuar Othman and Datuk Ghazi Ramli.

Wan Hasni and Rahim were named as principal shareholders in the RM2.4 billion Express Rail Link project which will connect the KL Sentral station and the KL International Airport in Sepang.

Anuar, formerly managing director of listed company United Engineers (M) Bhd, appeared in the list as shareholders in several other projects worth a total of RM1.5 billion. They included the Kuala Lumpur West Traffic Dispersal Scheme (Sprint) and a housing project for the Armed Forces in Penang.

Ghazi was named as a major shareholder in Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd, which currently undertakes the RM6.27 billion central sewerage system.

Bank Simpanan Nasional chairman Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Rustam Abdullah Sani, a freelance writer and former university's lecturer, also

benefited.

Ahmad Zahid confirmed yesterday he was one of the beneficiaries when Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. He was listed as a principal shareholder in Pantai Dalam Sdn Bhd, a company awarded the contract to redevelop Kampung Haji Abdullah Hukum in Bangsar.

Rustam, meanwhile, was named a major shareholder in Pasca Baru (M) Sdn Bhd, a company which was awarded a project to build the Shah Alam Immigration Complex.

The list of Bumiputeras who received shares and privatized projects, was put up on level four of the Putra World Trade Centre last Saturday.

A similar list was issued during last year's Umno general assembly in response to a speech on cronyism, nepotism and corruption in the Government made by Ahmad Zahid, who was then the Umno Youth head.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, during a press conference last Saturday, said that the list was displayed to prove that cronies and family members of Anwar were given millions of shares in companies.