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MUSTAPA-CONSULTANT

GOVT APPOINTS A CONSULTANT TO SPEED UP PROCEDURES

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 (Bernama) -- The government has appointed a consultant to provide input on how to speed up the process of awarding contracts for development projects, second finance minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said here today.

"We have already appointed a consultant to at least look into two procedures, firstly procedure on payments to contractors and secondly, procedure on the award of tender contracts (development)," he told reporters after officiating the 4th annual general meeting (AGM) of the Malaysian Franchise Association.

He said the government has given the consultant two to three weeks to carry out the research and present recommendations on how the implementation of these procedures could be improved.

Mustapa, who is also minister of entrepreneur development, however declined to name the consultant.

He said in terms of payments procedure, the consultant would compare it with the procedure practised by the private sector, and also that practised in other countries.

On tender procedures, he said at a meeting between prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad with secretaries-generals and financial officers of all ministries, it was agreed that these procedures be reviewed.

A number of changes to these procedures had also been made to enhance efficiency, he said.

Dr Mahathir, at the meeting which was attended by Mustapa, had directed all ministry secretaries-general and financial officers to ensure that bureaucratic procedures are carried out speedily to ensure that allocations to each ministry under this year's budget are spent within the given time frame.

Mustapa said as a follow up, a meeting between secretaries-general and the Treasury would be held this Tuesday to discuss problems relating to the award of and payment of contracts.

-- BERNAMA

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