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Mohd Ali-Companies

MORE THAN 20 COMPANIES BLACKLISTED FOR SUPPORTING OPPOSITION

MELAKA, Mac 18 (Bernama) -- The state government has blacklisted more than 20 contractors who were identified as having supported and making allocations to the opposition parties during the general election in November last year.

Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam said the state government had also circulated the list to all its agencies and subsidiaries for action to be taken.

He said the list had also been circulated to federal government agencies in the state to ensure that the companies involved would not be awarded projects tendered for.

"We want to prove that the ruling government now is the Barisan Nasional (BN) and as the government which has been given the mandate by the rakyat it is thus appropriate that priority is given to companies which have supported the government," he said.

He said this to reporters after officiating the kayaking competition at Sungai Punggor, Alai here today. Also present was State Assembly Speaker Datuk Amid Nordin.

He said it was time that such action was taken against the companies concerned just like what was being done against BN and Umno supporters by the PAS-led Terengganu government.

Meanwhile, he said so far no representatives from the two banks which were blacklisted in the state had come forward to appeal and clarify on the position of the staff who were alleged to have supported the opposition parties.

"It's appropriate that the banks' management disciplined their staff so that they would be more responsible and professional in their work, action must be taken against those involved to protect the image of the financial institutions concerned," he said.

He had said yesterday that staff of Bank Islam and the Bumiputera Commerce Bank branches in the state were identified as having exposed government transactions at the bank to the public.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said yesterday that the banks' management "to a certain extent" should be responsible for the action of their staff in leaking their clients' transactions at the banks to the public.

Asked whether the blacklisting of the two banks by state government was appropriate in a country that practised democracy, he said: "The state government, as a client, has the right to choose whichever bank (to deal with)...that's the democratic process."

Ten teams including from the Royal Malaysian Navy from Lumut in Perak, Penang, Selangor, Johor, Kuala Lumpur, Pahang, Perlis, Terengganu, Perak and Melaka took part in the competition.

-- BERNAMA

MYD AO