

Contracts for Bakun coffer dam project yet to be finalised

By 12 JUN 2001

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the Government has yet to finalise the contracts for the Bakun hydroelectric dam project but it will be made as soon as possible.

The Government, he said, will consider any bids as long as they are competitive.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on a newspaper report that Sarawak tycoon Tan Sri Ting Pek Khiing had secured a RM200 million contract to build the Bakun coffer dam project through his company Global Uphill Sdn Bhd.

Global Uphill is said to have made the lowest bid among the three other bidders, namely Loh & Loh Corp Bhd, Hock Seng Lee Bhd and Cahaya Mata Sarawak Bhd.

"Anybody who makes a good offer deserves to have it. I don't want to discriminate against anybody simply because he is a controversial figure.

"Even when he wants to do something honest, we say no... that is not fair," he told reporters after launching the book on Petronas entitled "A Vision Realised: The Transformation of the National Oil Corporation" in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the Government will evaluate the bidders for the Bakun project based on their performances and not on their histories.

"If the person does something wrong, we will take action.

"But if the person does not do anything wrong and just wants to do something that is beneficial to us, I think we should evaluate on performance and not on the history," he noted.

The Bakun coffer dam project is part of the RM9 billion project that was revived after being shelved following the regional economic downturn. — *By Hamisah Hamid*