

Tighter vetting process for privatised projects

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Companies must be tough in addition to having strong financial standing, experience

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon: The government will look into certain criteria, including the capabilities of companies, when awarding privatised projects, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

There is a real need to look at the ability of the companies, he said, as the government does not want to give projects to companies which easily get shaken up when there is some form of pressure on them.

Other criteria that will be taken into account include the companies' financial standing, background and experience, he told reporters after tabling the 8th Malaysia Plan (8MP) in parliament today.

"The norm is that the government selects companies which have the experience and capability when privatisation projects are awarded," he said.

Getting public opinion and conducting surveys when privatising projects, as stated in the 8MP, is something the government has always done, he added.

"Even now, when we want to build a road, we ask the people's opinion," he said.

"If they say they do not want it, we won't do it ... we always consult the public first."

Mahathir said the people will accept the plan if they are not instigated to go

against it as everything planned is for their benefit.

"But, certain people will make accusations, asking

the people not to accept the plan ... this is an old story," he said.

He said in Malaysia, the

people are very cooperative unless they are instigated.

It is because of instigation that the government

has to go down to the ground and waste its resources and energy to explain to the people.