

# Ensuring govt contracts are completed on time

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The authorities must step up enforcement to ensure that government contracts awarded to bumiputra contractors are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

National Economic Action Council executive chairman Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said this yesterday in response to questions about errant contractors who failed to complete the construction of 2,000 computer laboratories in schools.

Speaking after opening the Commonwealth Association for Corporate Governance (CACG) annual conference and workshop, he said the cases are closely linked to the issue of corporate governance.

“The cases highlighted served a very important lesson to us. Changes would be made to the existing process and people with the expertise should be roped in to deal with the matter,” he said.

Mustapa said government

—officers should conduct an audit before awarding the contracts and visit the sites frequently to monitor the situation

“They (officers) must also be firm in taking action against the culprits. Tightening corporate governance is not only about putting rules and regulations in place but enforcement is also very important,” he said.

Mustapa said there is no excuse for the contractors to fall behind schedule when the projects involved something as important as the construction of computer laboratories for schools.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said on Saturday that a review will be conducted on the process of awarding contracts to bumiputra contractors.

He said the government will only consider companies with proven records in completing projects on time.