

11 MAY 2001

College-Payment

COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUILDERS ASKING FOR ADVANCE FROM GOVT

SEREMBAN, May 11 (Bernama) -- Community College Builders' Committee today asked the government for an advance to enable them to continue with the construction of new buildings and renovating existing ones to be converted into community colleges nationwide.

Its chairman Bahari Abdullah said the government, particularly the Education Ministry, had not made any payment for the work done so far to the 11 contractors appointed to undertake the job nationwide.

He said contractors appointed in each state had spent millions of ringgit of their own money and were now facing problems to continue with the job owing to financial constraints.

"We don't want to be blamed solely if the contractors failed to complete the colleges scheduled to commence student intake in July.

"Hence, we are appealing to the government for help to make the payments so that work can go on smoothly," he told a news conference today.

Bahari said it was agreed earlier that the payment would be given in February but the contractors had not received anything till today.

He said the committee had sent a letter on the matter to the Education Ministry on March 19 and a follow-up letter to the Finance Ministry on April 12 but had not receive any reply till now.

Asked whether the advance payment was included in the contract agreement, he said the official contract had not been sign yet.

"We thought when the government appointed the contractors to carry out the job, payments will be made on schedule as was agreed to at a meeting early last year," he said.

Bahari said his company BA Urus Bina (M) Sdn Bhd, which built and renovated a building for the college in Jempol, Negeri Sembilan had spent more than RM5 million todate and was facing problems to complete the RM12-million project.

"We built two new buildings and renovated two existing shophouses which are now 85 per cent ready. The college building is slated for completion next month as it has been picked as the launching site by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. We cannot continue with the project due to financial problems," he said

Another contractor Mohd Yazit Ismail claimed that his company Bukit Mewah Development Sdn Bhd, which built the college in Teluk Intan, had spent more than RM6 million for the RM16-million project.

He said the project was 70 per cent completed.

Mohd Shukri Shuib claimed his company Bertam Properties Sdn Bhd, which undertook the college project in Penang, had spent RM2.5 million since construction and renovation works started in July last year.

He said the RM16-million project was now 30 per cent completed.

Chenor Harapan Sdn Bhd, the builder of the college in Kuantan, had spent more than RM2 million thus far for the RM12.9-million project.

The seven other appointed contractors are Kubang Pasu Development Sdn Bhd (Kedah), Hampstead Development Sdn Bhd (Melaka), Oricon Sdn Bhd (Sarawak), PSM Supplier Sdn Bhd (Sabah), Nice Skyline Sdn Bhd (Johor Baharu), Bintong Construction Sdn Bhd (Perlis) and Tonggak Budi Sdn Bhd (Selangor).

-- BERNAMA

APG TS

