

30 DEC 2001

FAILURE TO COMPLETE COMPUTER LABS DUE TO CONTRACTORS' ATTITUDE, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today attributed the failure to complete the construction of 85 per cent of the computer laboratories for schools in peninsular Malaysia to the practice of bumiputera contractors who sell their contracts to others.

Saying that the issue would be discussed at the cabinet meeting, the prime minister added that projects were always abandoned when they involved bumiputera contractors because many of them preferred to sell their contracts to third parties which would then sell them to fourth parties and even fifth parties for quick gains.

"We want to give bumiputera contractors a chance but they sell to others and these people in turn sell to others. Then the final party to do it is often unable to complete it because its profit is so small," he told reporters after attending Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin's Hari Raya open house in Bandar Tun Hussein Onn here.

He was asked to comment on a news report today on the failure of contractors to complete the construction of nearly 85 per cent of the projects although the Education Ministry had extended the completion period three times for four main contractors.

He said the cabinet would study the actual cause of the delay after the new year.

-- BERNAMA

RBZ MAM MAI JK