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Renong's fate still not known

FOLLOWING the Government's decision to turn United Engineers (Malaysia) Bhd into a private company, whether its associate Renong Bhd will face the same fate is not known just yet, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We have not decided about selling off UEM subsidiaries and associated companies. We have to go through this in great detail before we make any decision," he told reporters when met in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after opening the 2001 CEO Summit.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was currently looking at the whole structure of UEM "to find out the ramifications and the needs to structure (the group) to make it viable."

On Wednesday, Tan Sri Halim Saad and eight other directors announced their resignations from Renong, sparking talk that Renong will soon be made private as well.

The resignations came a day after the close of Syarikat Danasaham Sdn Bhd's offer for all of UEM's shares at an overwhelming acceptance level of 97.68 per cent for stocks and 93.31 per cent for warrants.

On reports that the Johor Bahru-Singapore tunnel project has been cancelled due to escalating costs, the Prime Minister said they were "speculation."

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