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More jobs for Bumi contractors

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Government has invited Bumiputera contractors to carry out projects costing less than RM100,000 in the peninsula and RM250,000 in Sabah and Sarawak.

Priority would be given to projects below RM50,000, Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Samsudin Hitam said.

In a circular dated March 1 but issued last Friday, he said funds would be disbursed under a special allocation which he declined to disclose. The special allocation was in addition to programmes and allocations channelled through the Rural Development Ministry.

Projects that could be tendered for include the construction and upgrading of roads, particularly in rural areas, building of small bridges, the supply of electricity and tap water and the construction of sports facilities such as courts.

The allocation is believed to be part of the RM4.3 billion stimulus package announced by the Government last September to cushion the impact of the economic slowdown.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who announced the package, had said that RM1 billion had been set aside for small rural and selected urban development projects.

Samsudin said the allocations would be channelled through the respective State development directors or the Federal development directors.

"Every State development director or Federal development director will be responsible to ensure the allocations are distributed promptly.

"The allocation must be distributed fairly among the districts in a particular State so that the projects are not carried out in a particular district only," he said.

For the smooth implementation of these projects, a committee should be set up at the district level which would determine the projects that need to be carried out.

The committee should either be chaired by district officers, the Federal development director or the Resident.

Members of the committee should include the MP or any individual appointed by the Federal/State development director, the State Assemblyman, a representative of the Federal Development Department director (in the event the committee is chaired by the Resident or the district officer), a representative of the Public Works Department and the Village Development and Security Committee.

The appointment of contractors would also be decided by the committee. A senior government official, who has knowledge of a particular job, would sit in the committee when this was done.

The committee should have a quorum of three individuals, including the chairman, before any decision can be made.

Samsudin said before making any decision on the awarding of a contract, the committee should take several matters into consideration including:

- * the contractors appointed must be a Bumiputera in the class F or EX categories and registered with the PPK/PUKONSA/UPK;
- * the projects should be equally distributed among the contractors within the district;
- * the cost should be based as assessed by the PWD or the district office;
- * projects costing less than RM20,000 can be awarded directly to a class

F contractor. However, this is allowed only once under this special programme except when the contractor wins another bid through a tender process;

* in the event there is no assessment on the cost of a project costing between RM20,000 and RM100,000, the committee should call for tenders among the class F and EX contractors; and,

* if there is a shortage of class F and EX Bumiputera contractors to undertake projects in Sabah and Sarawak, those from class E and D can be considered.

Samsudin said the contractors would be paid an advance of 75 per cent of the project once the offer letter was issued.

However, contractors would be required to provide a bank guarantee or a similar guarantee which had par value with the amount of advance received.

"The remaining sum would be paid within two weeks after the project was certified to be completed by the committee," he said.

Failure to complete any project would jeopardise the contractor's chances of getting another government project in future.

Those found to have sold their projects to others would also be blacklisted.

He said it was the responsibility of the Resident, Federal development director, State development director or the district officer to ensure projects were carried out promptly and completed.

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