

12/11/2003

PM: Pay contractors promptly (HL)

M.K. Megan

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. - All monies due to government-appointed contractors, suppliers and service providers will be paid before the year is out and, in future, all payments will be made as soon as invoices and documents submitted are in order, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

The Prime Minister said there were sometimes complaints from contractors and service providers that they had not received payments or payments were late.

Asked about the quantum being owed to contractors, suppliers and service providers, he said it was still being calculated.

Abdullah said the new instruction was to show that the Government was a good pay-master for goods and services received.

He also announced easier measures for suppliers and service providers to register with the Finance Ministry.

He said with immediate effect, all suppliers, service providers and manufacturers who apply to register with the Finance Ministry to bid for government tenders would know the result within two weeks.

"If they do not receive any response from the ministry within two weeks, they can take it that their application has been approved and look forward for the interim certificates for one year," he said, adding that currently it took sometimes more than a month before the aspirants were informed of the outcome.

For the registration of supply companies, which are not wholly owned by Bumiputeras (but more than 51 per cent Bumiputera-controlled), they would be given the automatic interim certificate for a one-year period and there would be no requirement for the premises to be visited.

The Prime Minister also announced that the ministry's officers need not visit manufacturers' premises if their products have been listed under Sirim's Quality Assurance System or Ikram's Quality Assurance before being listed as a manufacturer with the ministry.

Abdullah was speaking at a Press conference after meeting the Finance Ministry's heads of department and receiving Japan's Foreign Minister at the ministry here. Abdullah is also Finance Minister I.

He said all other government departments would be asked to review the issuing process for licences, permits and certificates to see if faster and easier approaches could be implemented to ensure a better delivery system.

Earlier in the morning, while addressing the ministry staff, he said the achievements inherited to date should not only be safeguarded but must be improved so that the developed nation status outlined in Vision 2020 could be realised.

Abdullah thanked Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for putting Malaysia on a pedestal full of various achievements during his 22 years as Prime Minister. "We have to improve from here on and not let any of the achievements slip from our grip."

For that, he said, man, machine and procedures must improve at all times so that the value chain could be taken upwards and forward.

"Improve yourself and the procedures and I promise to do the same so that I can deliver the best to the people."

He said everyone had to work for nation-building.

Also present were Second Finance Minister Datuk Jamaludin Jarjis, Deputy Finance Ministers Datuk Shafie Salleh and Datuk Ng Yen Yen, Parliamentary

Secretary Hashim Ismail, secretary-general Tan Sri Samsuddin Hitam and senior ministry officials.

The officials earlier pledged to carry out their duties with full commitment.