

Pak Lah: 30% bumi equity by 2010
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Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today said the government hopes to achieve the 30 percent bumiputera equity target by 2010 - in three years.

"The policy for 30 percent equity ownership among bumiputeras by 2010 is the target to ensure equal development and wealth distribution between ethnic groups and states.

"For now, the problem with the inequality of income and wealth is still present and must be combated until it is solved," he added.

The prime minister revealed this in a parliamentary written reply to Karpal Singh (DAP-Bukit Gelugor).

The 30 percent bumiputera corporate equity became a controversy last year when a think-tank claimed that the government had already exceeded the target which could be as high as 45 percent.

However, the government strenuously denied this. According to official statistics, the bumiputera share in the corporate sector is 18.9 percent.

In his reply today, Abdullah did not explain how the government would be able to make up the shortfall in three quick years.

In another question from Fong Kui Lun (DAP-Bukit Bintang) to the premier on how much his predecessor Dr Mahathir Mohamad was paid as Petronas advisor, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz said Mahathir was paid RM15,000 per month.

Mahathir was appointed as the national oil company's advisor in 2003. Fong also asked if Mahathir was given a jet for his private use which Nazri denied.

IPCMC being studied

In another written reply from Abdullah in his capacity as internal security minister, he said 102 of the 125 recommendations made by the Royal Commission to Enhance the Operations and Management of the Royal Malaysian Police are being implemented.

In addressing the question raised by Parliamentary Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Ipoh Timur), Abdullah disclosed that 23 of the suggestions are still being scrutinised.

"In a cabinet meeting on Sept 27, 2006, the Attorney-General's Chambers was ordered to study the legislative to set up the Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission.

"The study is still being done by the AG's Chambers and will be presented to the cabinet once it's complete," he said.

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