

No more support letters, CM Lim tells state reps
Malaysianmirror.com
06 August 2010

GEORGE TOWN - Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng (left) has asked elected representatives in the state not to issue support or recommendations letters for the purpose of obtaining government contracts.

"Elected representatives are still allowed to issue letters of support for welfare assistance, appeals of reductions of summonses compounds, application of hawkers' licences, education loans and scholarships," Guan Eng explained in a statement on Friday.

The issuance of support letters is widely carried out in all states, especially the Umno-BN states, for the purpose of securing government as well as private-sector contracts.

But recently, the practice hit the headlines when a Klang municipal councillor was accused of abusing the system to win contracts worth a total of more RM1 million for 20 firms.

Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim and state Speaker Teng Chang Khim confirmed the practice was also carried out in their state.

Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who is also the financial adviser for Selangor, has suggested that the practice be discontinued in Pakatan states.

Meanwhile, Guan Eng reminded his officers that letters of support that were not for government contracts must still be subject to existing rules. This is to preempt any abuse.

"The Penang state government and its agencies do not require nor entertain such business support letters for any contractor to secure government projects," he said.

"There is no need for such practices of issuing business support letters as government projects are given under the open tender system.

"CAT governance — based on competency, accountability, and transparency — has adopted the e-tender approach through online computer applications, which also minimizes contact between government officers and contractors bidding for the project," the statement said.

Copyright © 2009 www.malaysiamirror.com

Source :

<http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/47983--no-more-support-letters-cm-lim-tells-state-reps>