

Benefits of privatisation

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THE National Privatisation Policy has saved the country billions of ringgit on development besides reducing the burden of the Finance Ministry.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Datuk Abdul Rahman Suliman said the Government had saved RM152.96bil on development and RM7.75bil on administration annually.

He said the Government would have had to bear all costs if not for the policy which was introduced in 1983.

"The Government had also profited RM1.54bil from selling

assets and RM4.94bil more from selling equity due to the policy.

"These profits have not included corporate taxes and other taxes by the privatised agencies," he told Bernad S. Maraat (BN - Pensiangan).

Abdul Rahman also said that the policy was one of the efforts by the Government to boost the involvement of bumiputras in the economy.

"The Government has made it compulsory that at least 30% of the privatised equity projects are given to bumiputras.

"The bumiputra equity ownership in privatised projects,

including in Sabah and Sarawak, on par value has increased to 51.7% from the 32.7% when the projects were first privatised," he said.

Abdul Rahman also said the policy had ensured that project concessionaires awarded at least 60% of the sub-contracted works to bumiputras.

However, he noted that there were some bumiputra sub-contractors who misused the privilege given to them.

"To ensure that this does not happen, the Government requires every ministry to set up a special committee to monitor the

situation," said Abdul Rahman.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary committee on population and development met yesterday to discuss the agenda and delegation of work for the new office-bearers.

The three-term office-bearers for the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development were sworn in on Nov 8. They are led by Datuk Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah (BN - Tambun), who is also the Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister.