

PM: Restricted tenders introduced

Govt allows controlled negotiations to give flexibility for selected projects

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government has introduced restricted tender negotiations for certain projects, even though Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is fundamentally opposed to direct negotiations.

"I strongly opposed the practice of direct negotiations as it cannot

be monitored because it involves dealings between the individual and the company," he said during Prime Minister Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Anwar said while the delays of projects might be a concern, leakages are also widespread in direct negotiation projects.

"But we have to remember that swindling of public funds and taking commissions are quite widespread in the various projects

awarded via direct negotiations," he said.

He said district officers and ministry officers of certain levels had been given the flexibility to opt for restricted tender negotiations for projects such as dilapidated schools and clinics.

"For instance, for dilapidated schools and clinics, if the project is up to RM1mil, the district office is then given the flexibility to use a restricted tender negotiation.

"In the case of malfunctioning lifts, if we open a tender, it could take three months for the repair.

"Therefore, for lifts that need to be replaced or repaired, which cost between RM500,000 and RM1.2mil, the procurement price could also be processed faster via restricted tender negotiations or pre-qualifications," he added.

Anwar was responding to a supplementary question by Datuk Seri Noraini Ahmad (BN-Parit

Sulong) on whether the government reforms would lead to delays in ongoing infrastructure projects.

She said some quarters were of the view that direct negotiations should continue.