

GOVT TO MEET TODAY ON DNB

NEW STRAITS TIMES 22 APR 2024 pg. 3

PM will chair meeting; company had denied national 5G roll-out hit a snag

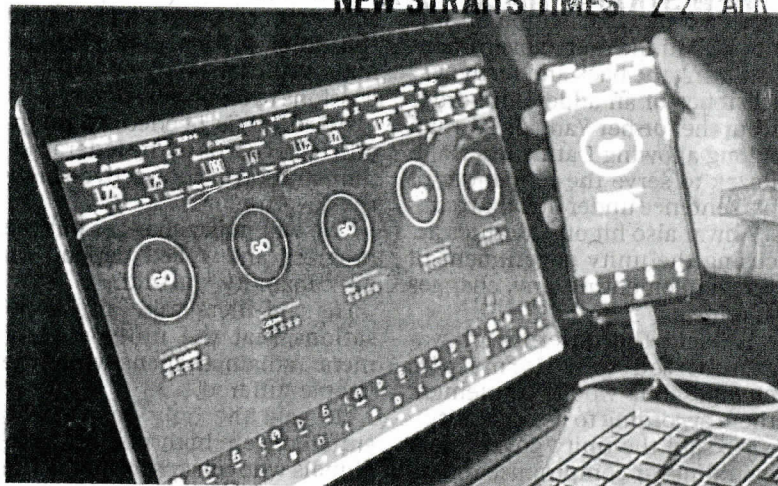
ADIB POVERA
AND NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI
SHAH ALAM
news@nst.com.my

THE government will hold a meeting today to discuss issues surrounding Digital Nasional Bhd (DNB), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday.

“(Any issues related to) DNB will be decided next week. I will chair a meeting on it,” he said after PKR’s 25th-anniversary celebrations here.

On Saturday, DNB refuted claims that the national 5G roll-out had hit a snag.

It denied the allegations and rejected the insinuation of impropriety in its governance and procurement practices.



Digital Nasional Bhd says the awarding of the 5G network equipment contract has been reviewed by multiple parties, including the cabinet in 2022 and 2023. FILE PIC

“DNB’s tender and procurement processes are structured according to the strictest governance standards and best practices,” it had said.

Yesterday, Singapore’s CNA reported that the deal between telecommunication companies and DNB, the state-owned operator, had broken down.

DNB had also refuted the CNA report, which alleged that it had not been transparent in its internal operations, particularly in the awarding of contracts to third-party vendors.

The report referred to the contract given to Ericsson to develop the country’s 5G infrastructure

DNB said on the contrary, it had

always been open and transparent in this matter, which had been addressed in detail at various times in Parliament and in the media.

It said the awarding of the 5G network equipment contract involved a rigorous evaluation process, with Ericsson scoring the highest across all prerequisites.

It also said the tender process was structured by an independent global professional services firm, and involved some 50 local and international experts from across 10 countries with 5G network roll-out experience.”

The process has also been reviewed by multiple parties, including by the cabinet in 2022 and last year, it said.

DNB said the process, with respect to the share subscription agreements signed with the five mobile network operators, was ongoing.

It explained that given DNB’s position as a public utility serving the public interest, it was critical for published reports to be verified and based on accurate information.