

Brochure Racks Worth RM1.95 Mln Bought Without Finance Ministry's Approval
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- The Auditor-General's Report 2010 found the purchase of 1,000 racks worth RM1.95 million for Visit Malaysia Year 2007 brochures to be made through direct negotiation without the approval of the Finance Ministry.

According to the report, the procurement was made by the Tourism Minister's Office and payment made by the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB).

The audit on the board found there was no agreement signed between the Tourism Ministry or MTPB with the supplier, Leo Communications Sdn Bhd, resulting in the supply specification and delivery not being fixed.

The auditors could not confirm whether the distribution of the racks had been completed together with the tourism brochures.

The report opined that an investigation committee should be set up to see whether that there was no adherence to the financial procedure or misappropriation in the purchase of the brochure racks.

However, the Auditor-General's Department was informed by MTPB that the Finance Ministry had approved the payment of RM1.51 million for 773 racks last March 18 and the Tourism Ministry issued an order to the officer concerned to follow the government's financial procedure.

The Auditor-General's Report 2010 also found that installing of billboards in Indonesia did not take into consideration the opinion of the Tourism Malaysia director in Indonesia about the unsuitable locations.

It was also found that the installation of five billboards costing RM3.64 million in Medan, Surabaya and Jakarta on Jan 27, 2009 for a one-year period was made through direct negotiation without the Finance Ministry's approval.

The report said MTPB should procure billboards according to the stipulated procedure to ensure the price was competitive, value for money and suitable locations.

The audit visits around Johor Baharu, Penang, Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley also found billboards installed at unstrategic locations, while there were billboards that had collapsed or without lighting.

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