

**PKR questions Mindef-Sapura security deal**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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**By Lisa J. Ariffin**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 — The Ministry of Defence has confirmed that a contract for its “Network Centric Operations” (NCO) was awarded to Sapura Technologies Sdn Bhd, saying it was inked based on the company’s experience and expertise in security and defence.

In a written reply to Parliament yesterday, Mindef stated that Sapura will develop the NCO in four phases over 20 years, with Phase 1A costing RM140 million for the first two years.

However, PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar (picture), who is Lembah Pantai MP, today dismissed this as “something seriously wrong” as there was no clear roadmap of the project.

“It is also stated here that the NCO is a capability development that changes according to needs and new input, meaning greater cost will be incurred from time to time,” Nurul Izzah said.

“And all hardware and software cannot be determined easily, hence they did not have a general service requirement and a clear roadmap,” she added.

Another PKR vice-president, Chua Tian Chang, claimed that the contract was a commission-based project.

“We have received many questions about Sapura’s credibility and ability. Sapura is not well known in this field,” he said.

“The answer we got from the government also clearly shows they are not confident, saying that the continuation of project depended on Sapura’s performance during the first phase,” he added.

Chua, who is also Batu MP, said the four phases given as “roadmaps” in this project was only a timetable.

“We were not told what will happen during the phases. We need to know what capacity we are developing,” he said.

The opposition party raised the matter last month when PKR communications director Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad alleged the deal was worth RM2 billion. He also questioned Sapura’s ability to carry out the NCO project.

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