

Pakatan wants MACC to probe all Alstom deals

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By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 24 — The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) must investigate all government deals with French engineering group Alstom, which was fined RM133 million by Swiss authorities for allegedly bribing civil servants in several countries including Malaysia, Pakatan Rakyat (PR) has demanded.

It is the second French company in as many years to be fined for bribing government officials, after telco firm Alcatel-Lucent paid RM435 million to resolve US criminal and civil probes in December 2010.

Nurul Izzah said the MACC should also investigate Alstom's past deals with the government.
— File pic

Alstom was awarded a RM2.8 billion contract by Tenaga Nasional earlier this year to provide key power generation equipment to Southeast Asia's first 1,000-megawatt (MW) supercritical coal-fired power plant in Manjung.

PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar told The Malaysian Insider the MACC should immediately investigate Alstom's latest contract, as well as past deals with the government.

"It must be immediately investigated by the MACC as well as scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee.

"This move is also crucial considering Tenaga's past dealings with the company — Hulu Terengganu hydropower plant in 2010, and as turnkey contractors in 1994 and 2000," she said.

Alstom won turnkey contracts in 1994 and 2000 to build four power plants including the 1,300MW Lumut and the 670MW Kuala Langat plants and deals in 2003 and 2004 to install environmental control systems for the Tanjung Bin and Jimah coal-fired power plants.

Alstom was also appointed by Tenaga to supply two 125MW hydropower turbines, a generator and ancillaries for the 250MW Hulu Terengganu hydropower plant in 2010.

The company says it is "the largest original equipment manufacturer in Malaysia", having supplied key equipment for nearly 7.5 gigawatts (GW) of the country's installed power generation capacity.

DAP national publicity secretary Tony Pua said it was embarrassing that major cases of alleged corruption on large projects are not investigated within Malaysia but are exposed in other countries.

This, according to Pua, was one of the underlying reasons why the perception of corruption in Malaysia continued to be poor as reflected in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI).

Malaysia dropped from 32nd place in 2003 to 56th in 2010.

"Punish those who have received bribes. Leave no stone unturned and redeem its (MACC) tattered reputation," he told The Malaysian Insider.

The Petaling Jaya Utara MP said the inaction over such claims cemented the perception of the MACC being a "weak and slow body, particularly in grand corruption involving multibillion ringgit contracts."

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