

DPM says highway award to Umno men based on merit
The Malaysian Insider
March 8 , 2012
By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal

KUALA LUMPUR, March 8 — The RM2.2 billion Kinrara-Damansara Expressway (Kidex) highway contract was awarded to only the most “qualified” companies, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

The deputy prime minister denied allegations that the deal was given to companies linked to Umno lawyer Datuk Hafarizam Harun and the wife of former Chief Justice Tun Zaki Azmi (picture) due to political reasons.

“There was a thorough evaluation by all parties... I think it is based on merit based on submissions made (by the companies).

“I do not think we want to deny anybody the opportunity if they feel they can contribute in terms of improving the public transport system; the government has been very open. The evaluation was done on basis of merit,” he told reporters.

The companies in question are Emrail Sdn Bhd and Zabima Engineering Sdn Bhd.

Controversial blogger Raja Petra Kamarudin recently alleged that Zaki and Hafarizam, two key figures in the Perak constitutional crisis of 2009, were awarded the highway contract as a gift for helping Barisan Nasional (BN) topple Pakatan Rakyat in the northern state.

Hafarizam is a director in both firms while Zaki’s wife, Toh Puan Nik Sazlina Mohd Zain, is a director in Emrail.

“It is on the basis of proper evaluation, based on the submissions submitted by the company to the government and agencies concerned like the Economic Planning Unit (EPU).

“It was met with evaluation,” Muhyiddin repeatedly stressed.

He said that the process of awarding the contract to the two companies was no different from “other concessionaires awarded by the government.”

The Edge Financial Daily had reported on February 17 that the government had called a tender for the Kinrara-Damansara Expressway.

The announcement mentioned that seven companies were bidding for the job, which included Bina Puri, Mudajaya and Pesona Metro Sdn Bhd.

“The tenders are just out and it is not certain yet on the tenure of the concession as the CA has not been finalised,” said a source.

The highway will link Kinrara and Pusat Bandar Damansara and will divert traffic on the LDP.

According to The Edge, the concession was suppose to be awarded to PLUS Expressways but Pesona Metro had been tipped as a frontrunner for the project.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2012 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dpm-says-highway-award-to-umno-men-based-on-merit/>