

Nurul Izzah: Faulty radar supplier awarded KLIA2 contract
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PETALING JAYA, July 20 — PKR has revealed another Putrajaya contract issued to a company that was not recommended for the job, adding today that purported recipient is also controlled by a son of Umno MP Datuk Seri Jamaluddin Jarjis.

Citing documents in her possession, PKR vice president Nurul Izzah Anwar alleged today that Advanced Air Traffic Systems (M) Sdn Bhd (AAT), the firm involved in the faulty air traffic control system in Subang, has now been awarded a similar project for KLIA2.

She said AAT was awarded the contract even though another firm, AMP Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd (AMCOP), had been identified by qualified consultants as more suitable for the job.

"After Malaysians were shocked over the problems of the radar system developed by Selex Sistemi Integrati (SELEX) and AAT at the National Air Traffic Control Centre (NATCC) in Subang, PKR now understands that one of these firms was awarded a project for KLIA2 even though they were the losing bid," said the Lembah Pantai MP told a press conference here.

AAT is linked to Ikhwan Hafiz Jamaluddin through a company called Tirai Variasi, of which he is the largest shareholder. Ikhwan is the son of Jamaluddin, Malaysia's Ambassador to the US with ministerial status. SELEX is also alleged to own 30 percent of AAT.

According to the Lembah Pantai MP, her allegations were based on a report she sourced from Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd's hired consultant, AECOM.

"For the KLIA2 project, a firm called AECOM was hired as consultants to MAHB and began collecting information, data and reports since February 2010 in order to present a comprehensive opinion, especially in three aspects which are the air control system, procedures and equipment," she said.

She added that AECOM also had reservations with the efficiency of SELEX's system and recommended that it be upgraded in order to cope with expected flight capacity once KLIA2 begins operations.

"According to the technical valuation report by AECOM dated December 9, 2011, they recognised the ability of AMCOP to carry out the said contract better and had endorsed them, but in the end the contract was handed to AAT — a firm that, according to the report, did not meet the technical specifications needed for this project," Nurul Izzah said.

She also pointed out that while the cost of AAT's bid was lower compared to AMCOP's, approval could only be given if AAT met all technical aspects listed, which they did not.

According to Nurul, MAHB's special procurement committee meeting had also clearly given their valuation and recommendation for AMCOP to be chosen on March 15 this year.

"The choice of AAT is surprising because prior to this, AAT was already embroiled in a controversy that questioned the effectiveness and safety of Malaysia's air traffic system as

well as air transport passengers, through internal memos which lists the flaws and stability maintenance of the MIP-2 radar system for the Subang Airport," she said.

Nurul Izzah also said that MAHB and the Transport Ministry must now justify awarding the air traffic control system for KLIA2 to AAT given the firm's track record.

Last month, the PKR leader had highlighted that the ministry awarded a RM128.4 million contract via "closed tender" to Selex and AAT to develop the radar system for the NATCC.

Nurul Izzah said that the system installed at the NATCC by AAT and Selex was "so flawed controllers revert to the old system of not using radar," putting the lives of millions of passengers at risk.

The KLIA2 low cost airport began receiving scrutiny last year when the cost of construction ballooned from RM1.9 billion to RM3.6 billion and its opening was delayed from September 2011 to April 2013.

Earlier this month, AirAsia group chief executive Tan Sri Tony Fernandes posted on his blog that the cost may now reach RM5 billion.

DAP's Tony Pua blamed the cost increase on the relocation to the airport's current site, which he said required extensive and costly earthworks that would not have been necessary at the original location.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha responded to the claim by saying the shift was in line with the KLIA Blueprint December 2008.

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