

PAS questions AES takeover deal, how much Putrajaya has to pay concessionaires
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Now that the Home Ministry has taken over the Automated Enforcement Service (AES), PAS wants Putrajaya to reveal the compensation it has to pay to the two concessionaires that set it up.

Vice-president Datuk Mahfuz Omar said the government decision to take over the project showed it had been hasty with its implementation.

Bina Tegap Sdn Bhd and Ates Sdn Bhd, are the two concessionaires of the controversial project and the takeover comes almost a year to the date that AES operations began last September 23.

The AES captures pictures and video images of cars speeding or jumping a red light in targeted areas so that summonses can be issued to offenders. Currently, there are 14 cameras in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Perak.

"They should reveal all the financial details so that the public is convinced that nobody is benefitting personally from this issue," Mahfuz told The Malaysian Insider today.

Home Minister Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi confirmed yesterday that the AES operations were officially in police hands. "It is now in force at all locations where the cameras are installed," he said.

Early this year, the Attorney-General's Chambers decided to freeze all court proceedings related to summonses issued under AES after legal concerns were raised by certain groups.

Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail said then that although the summonses were legally binding, his office needed time to sort out issues relating to the AES as well as to ensure that all regulations and procedures were in place before court proceedings were initiated.

Mahfuz said Putrajaya had been arrogant and did not entertain feedback when launching the project.

"But when the project hit the skids, they easily cancelled the agreement. The issue which needs to be scrutinised about the AES is the claim that the system could reduce the accident rate in Malaysia," said the Pokok Sena MP.

The government initially announced it would use its discretion in implementing the AES system, including setting the speed limit, location, number of cameras installed and the payment rate of summonses.

Road Transport Department director-general Datuk Ismail Ahmad said this could be done now because the government was no longer bound by agreements it had with the two companies.

According to the agreements signed with the two companies, a total of 1,093 cameras were to be installed nationwide with a summons rate of RM300 for each offence.

"When the government takes over the operation and enforcement of the AES, we have other formulas and can use discretion," Ismail was quoted as saying by Berita Harian yesterday.

Ismail said areas with a speed limit of 110kph would be given priority before cameras are installed in areas with speed limits of 70kph or 90kph. - September 15, 2013.

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