

**Errant Security Firms Face Blacklist - Muhyiddin
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MELAKA, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Security companies for schools, which fail to adhere to the terms of agreement to carry out their duties would be blacklisted, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said additional conditions would be imposed for the appointment of security companies to overcome shortcomings involving security guards at schools as exposed by the 2012 Auditor-General's Report.

"Those (security firms) which are not qualified will be dropped. Those picked will face imposition of new conditions to ensure there will not be a repeat of such issues.

"I am also disappointed when such things happen. We don't have time to go to every school to check but we are still responsible," Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, told reporters after a meeting with the Melaka Umno Liaison Committee here Thursday.

He said this when asked to comment on the audit report which stated that the audit review at 35 selected schools found a security guard with criminal record while 76 did not submit security clearances from a nearby police station or home ministry to prove they had no criminal record.

Furthermore, there were also overaged guards who did not submit to the auditor their health reports from a government hospital to prove they were still healthy and could carry out their duties as guards.

Muhyiddin said his ministry had identified several weaknesses, including lack of proper monitoring although the selected security firms had been approved by the home ministry before they were offered contracts under the conditions offered based on open tender.

As such, he said the power to monitor the contract would be given to the state education department and district education office.

He said currently, there were 364 security firms which were given contracts for schools nationwide.

In the meantime, Muhyiddin also urged every ministry and state government to give serious attention to the report and take appropriate action to tackle problems which arose.

He said if there was misconduct by officers, they must be reported to enforcement agencies such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, or ensure that disciplinary action was taken under existing regulations.

"For the government, this is considered as a waste of the people's money and we do not want this to happen. We want the officers responsible for handling the projects to view the matter seriously, and it should not be mentioned repeatedly in the audit report.

"The Cabinet itself, has ordered that it (the report) must be regarded as important, appropriate action must be taken, whether against the officers concerned or overcoming

weaknesses, because for us, it is important that the money spent gives optimum benefit to the people," he added.

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