

**YTL Power board to meet today, discuss Track 4A power deal**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
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YTL Power International Bhd directors are having an emergency meeting today to discuss the electricity producer's participation in the RM3 billion Track 4A power plant after getting flak over boss Tan Sri Francis Yeoh's crony capitalism remarks, say sources.

The Malaysian Insider understands the meeting is being convened after one of the Track 4A consortium members, Tenaga Nasional Bhd, was non-committal about the 1,000 to 1,400 megawatt (MW) combined cycle gas power plant.

The sources said YTL Power is examining a range of options over the award given to the company, TNB and SIPP Energy Sdn Bhd – a company linked to Johor's Sultan Ibrahim.

"They may withdraw from 4A and ask the government to have an open tender where they will bid with others.

"The thinking is that's best to restore credibility to the process," a source told The Malaysian Insider.

Critics have assailed the direct award, saying it went against Putrajaya's push for transparency and open bidding for all government projects. But Putrajaya had said it had given a direct award to fast-track the process for a much-needed power plant.

DAP Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua and pressure group Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia (Awer) have said the deal smacked of "crony capitalism" and should go through due process.

Yeoh, the YTL Group managing director, had touched off a barrage of criticism this month when he said Malaysia must do away with crony capitalism, with critics pointing out his company had been awarded lucrative contracts in the energy, communications and property sector.

Yeoh had apologised and said his words at a government forum were misquoted.

Pua accused Putrajaya this morning of awarding the power plant deal to the YTL-SIPP-TNB consortium to appease it for not getting the RM11 billion Project 3A won by state asset manager 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

"It is shocking how the Energy Commission has proceeded to make an award for a 20-year concession to a group of companies that didn't even know that they are going to be working together," he said in a statement in Kuala Lumpur, referring to TNB's denial that it was yet part of a consortium despite receiving an offer letter.

The Energy Commission said last month that the YTL Power, SIPP Energy Sdn Bhd and TNB consortium would carry out the RM3 billion 1,000MW to 1,400MW gas-turbine power plant "Project 4A" based on its tender papers for the Project 3B due to the urgency for another power plant.

The award came within three months of Putrajaya awarding Project 3A to 1MDB to build and operate a 2,000MW coal-fired power plant although the company did not submit the lowest tariff for the tender exercise, which attracted seven bidders.

Pua said the award for Track 4A was not only directly negotiated, but also "the terms of the award were vague, unspecific and flimsy, as if it was conducted in an absolute hurry".

"Neither the size of the plant was fixed nor was the exact tariffs finalised – except to say that it must be 'comparable to the last tender exercise'," he said, adding that even the consortium arrangements between YTL Power, SIPP Energy and TNB were up in the air.

TNB has largely become an electricity transmission company as most new power plants have been awarded to IPPs but on June 3, the utility said it had received a conditional letter of award from the Energy Commission and "TNB is currently evaluating the offer as well as TNB's role in the project."

Pua quoted TNB chief executive Datuk Seri Azman Mohd as saying yesterday, "TNB would like to reaffirm that we have not had any prior discussions with any parties regarding the matter. As of now, we can confirm that we only received the offer letter and refute claims or assumptions that we are already part of the consortium." – June 17, 2014.

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