

# 'Allocate 50pc mega project contracts to Bumi firms'

**HARIZ MOHD**

**SHAH ALAM:** The federal government should emulate the 50 per cent allocation of Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) contracts to qualified Bumiputera companies in its future mega projects, says Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan,

The suggestion came following the successful completion of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line, which Ahmad said had proven the ability of Bumiputera companies to take on major construction projects and compete with non-Bumiputera contractors.

Ahmad said future mega projects which included the development of the Tun Razak Exchange, Bandar Malaysia, Rapid Pengerang, East Coast Rail Line and Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail, should use MRT's economic model as a benchmark in helping Bumiputeras.

"I suggest future government projects see a minimum of 50 per cent of the respective contracts awarded to Bumiputera-owned companies.

"This would help boost Bumiputeras' economy and their competitiveness," he said after launching Indkom Engineering Sdn Bhd's

Productivity Day, here, yesterday.

Ahmad said the award of mega project contracts worth billions of ringgit was a first in Malaysia.

The initiative came from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's out-of-the-box thinking to assist Bumiputeras via the Bumiputera Economic Council.

On the federal government's aim to make Malaysia among the world's Top 20 countries, Ahmad believed this could be achieved in five years if all companies, government agencies and the people work hard to increase the country's productivity and made it a national move to elevate Malaysia's status.

He said it was not a far-fetched aim as Malaysia had previously made it into the Top 20 list in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report.

Malaysia, he added, is not far from achieving the status as it emerged 23rd out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2017 ranking, 19th spot (from 61 listed countries) in the Institute of Management Development's World Competitiveness Yearbook 2016 scoreboard, and at the 25th spot (from 138 listed countries) in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017.