

CLARIFICATION TO THE MALAYSIAN INSIDER'S "MMC-GAMUDA BLOCKING BUMI COMPANIES IN MRT PROJECT, SAYS PERKASA"

Syarikat Prasarana Negara Berhad (Prasarana) and all agencies involved in the Klang Valley MRT project are committed to ensure that the project will be undertaken in a transparent manner. We place great emphasis in ensuring that all regulatory guidelines pertaining to the project, including awarding of contracts, are carefully followed and implemented.

The comments made by Perkasa Economic Director Dr Zubir Harun are serious and present a potential case for misrepresentation.

The size and complexity of the Klang Valley MRT (KVMRT) project carries with it significant risks of delays and cost overruns. As such it is crucial that the contractors selected must possess the expertise and financial strength to undertake a project of this magnitude.

In view of this, the Government, through Ministry of Finance has set strict guidelines for the procurement process, which include pre-qualification criteria and selection of the contractors for the work packages. This will ensure that genuine, competent and suitably qualified contractors who can perform for the timely completion of the project are selected.

Prasarana is confident that the local market has a pool of genuine, competent and suitably qualified Bumi and non-Bumi contractors. The Pre-Qualification (PQ) criteria are not overly stringent and enable many experienced contractors to qualify on their own without entering into a joint venture with others.

In fact, we have extended invitation to bumiputera contractors to participate in the tender. In our notice of pre-qualification that published in the media in March, we did set out two categories for the tender, Open Category and Bumiputera Category.

Prasarana would like to clarify that Dr. Zubir statement to say that Bumiputera contractors cannot place a RM300,000 which is the tender bond required at the tender stage is not true. There are Bumiputera contractors who can raise such funds and the major work packages are targeted for this group who possess the financial strength to undertake such projects.

Prasarana is also aware that there are Bumiputera contractors who cannot meet the criteria for the main work packages but are qualified to participate in the subcontract work. Therefore smaller contractors will have opportunities and roles to play in the KVMRT project at a level that commensurate with their skills and experience. They will not be excluded from this project.

The Government is committed to closely scrutinise the costs and delivery of this crucial national infrastructure project for the benefit of the Malaysian public. Prasarana, as the project owner, is committed to ensure transparency and timely delivery of this project within stipulated guidelines enforced by the Government.

Shahril Mokhtar

Group Managing Director

Syarikat Prasarana Negara Berhad