

Bumi contractors to get RM3.7b jobs from Perak rail project

PUTRAJAYA: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said contracts worth close to RM3.7 billion related to the Ipoh-Padang Besar double-tracking railway project will be offered to bumiputera contractors and suppliers.

The Gamuda-MMC consortium which is heading the project has identified 335 work packages which will be offered in stages beginning this month, he said.

For a start, Najib yesterday presented letters of award to 25 bumiputera contractors who have won various contracts worth about RM400 million in total. Ten bumiputera engineering consultants have also been awarded work.

Najib said the Gamuda-MMC consortium will be offering 62 packages of work for Class A contractors and 69 packages for Classes B and C.

The consortium has identified 180 contractors from Classes A, B, C and D to participate in the limited tenders for the project. Among the potential areas of work for offer include the construction of bridges, tracks, drainage, buildings, stations, utilities and landscaping.

Najib also said the government would consider giving more work to contractors with high performance ranking.

The consortium has also given the assurance that it would make the payments to the sub-contractors in 30 days.

He said the consortium would also help contractors with advance money for the purchase of equipment and provide them the main building materials such as cement, steel and concrete at fixed prices.

— *Bernama*