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State govt welcomes development of UiTM campus in Selangor

By: (Wed, 14 Apr 2010)

SHAH ALAM (April 14, 2010): Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim said today the state government will not stop the federal government from building Universiti Teknologi Mara's new campus in Serendah, provided that it is done properly.

It would be cheaper for the federal government to approach the state government over the acquisition of land instead of using the Poverty Eradication Foundation (YBK) as an agent, he said.

"If it is state land, the state can give the land. Even if it is private land, the state can acquire it on behalf of the federal government on the basis of reasonable costs and the state will not take any benefit from it.

"Then the federal government can tender the work to build the campus, which is cheaper and no commission is required. There is no agent required. It is very transparent and proper,"," he told a news conference here today.

He said some people were jumping about the issue of YBK's failure to get the state government approval to build the UiTM new campus in Serendah because they might lose commission from the project.

Asked about a group of Parti Keadilan Rakyat members asking Talam Group for commission in the restructuring of the group's RM392 million debt to the state government, Abdul Khalid said he received the information from Talam's non-independent non-executive director, Tan Sri Tan Ah Chye, after the debt restructuring exercise was completed.

Otherwise, he would have called off the restructuring, he said, adding that Chan told him that he never paid the group and the group was no longer in PKR.

Asked whether the audited report of YB, which was released yesterday, had political motive, Khalid said the issue was raised even before the by-election or the death of Hulu Selangor MP Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Ahmad. -- BERNAMA

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