

Govt to keep control of telecom services

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will continue to be the regulatory body for telecommunication services in the country to safeguard the interest of both the consumers and the private sector.

This was stated in the National Telecommunication Policy launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

The policy was drawn up to ensure that the development of Malaysia's telecommunications industry supported the national aspirations and the country's development programme.

Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said as a vital sector in the country's development, Malaysia needed a sophisticated and efficient telecommunications network.

"To achieve this, we need a permanent direction and complete guideline to co-ordinate and supervise the expansion of the telecommunication industry," he said.

He said drawing up the policy, which covered all telecommunication sectors, had not been an easy task.

He said his ministry would hold a national telecommunication seminar to give an opportunity to all interested parties to keep in touch with the latest developments in the industry.

The policy will:

- **PLAY** a role as the prime mover towards the progress and development of the telecommunications sector in becoming a sophisticated sector,

- **UNDERLINE** the development of the telecommunications sector not only at national level but in the international arena as a guide for all parties concerned,

- **STREAMLINE** the existence of a competitive environment in a structured manner to ensure optimum usage of the country's resources for the benefit of entrepreneurs, consumers and the country, and

- **ENSURE** the emergence of Malaysia as a competitive telecommunications services supplier and a market leader in the Asia-Pacific region as well as the world.