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Mahathir-info (with pix)

MAHATHIR CALLS FOR ORGANISED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called for ongoing efforts to develop a culture for the creation of an organised information management system in government agencies.

He said an agenda for research in the government information system should also be planned and implemented to produce methods and standards to enhance the effectiveness of government information management.

"The focus of the government now is on the creation of a mature and sound information infrastructure as the basis to move the nation towards progress, dynamism and excellence in development," he said when launching the "Civil Service Link (CSL)" network at the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (Mampu) in the Prime Minister's Department, here.

Dr Mahathir described the launching of the CSL as not only timely but also in keeping with the government policy to create an information-rich society.

The primary objective of the CSL is to enable users to obtain information related to government administration and management and to coordinate efforts towards the creation of a public domain data base and network in government departments. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said that in view of the fact that exchange of information between the government and the private sector was important, there should be closer cooperation in the pooling of information between the two sides.

He said the two-way flow of this information would enhance the competitiveness of the country because time and energy can be saved.

Malaysia, he said, will continue to play an important role in regional socio-political growth, economic growth, the environment and technology.

"This means that basic information should influence our decisions so that our involvement will be more effective and meaningful," he said.

In this connection, he said, the government gave serious emphasis to the need to disseminate important information under the Malaysia Incorporated concept.

He said the wide dissemination of information would help the private sector to know such aspects as laws, government regulations and procedures, relevant processes, and the types of services offered and the agencies offering them. -- more

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"Relevant, accurate and up-to-date information is very important to determine the rate of socio-economic growth," he said, adding that the private sector as the prime mover of economic growth required information to compete in the world market.

Dr Mahathir said much of the information needed by the private sector was now with the government.

Macro-economic statistics, forecasts and analyses on trends in the economic sector, social indicators, science and technology were primary inputs that could help private companies in their planning, he said.

"The garnering of accurate and complete information will definitely help in the daily process of private companies," he said.

The prime minister said the government, in planning economic growth strategies, also required important information which the private sector had, such as the development of certain markets and feedback on government services, to upgrade service and expedite decision-making on the part of the government. -- more

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Dr Mahathir also said that accurate information and effective communication were important prerequisites for the building of an integrated society.

He said good understanding between groups in society could be enhanced through the dissemination of accurate information.

"The dissemination of information is also important to develop an informed society. The transition from an industrial society to an informed society requires data which can influence decisions and actions of the people," he said.

He said the people have to be aware of the developments in communication to progress, by acquiring and using accurate and latest information effectively.

On the CSL, he said it was a re-engineering process which facilitated access to government information. -- more

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The CSL is an information centre that is responsible for acquiring, organising and making available on request information pertaining to various aspects of public sector administration.

Through the CSL, the general public could readily obtain information on how to deal with government agencies with regard to procedures in obtaining business licences, passports, work permits and so on.

It forms an electronic link of government agencies, the business community, research and academic institutions and the general public to provide for a free flow of information on public service among government agencies and between the public and the private sectors.

Physically, it comprises an information resource centre which holds a repository of information on government administration and a network of information terminals or kiosks located at public venues for easy access by the business community and the general public.

The CSL is divided into two components -- the Information Kiosk and the CSL database. -- more

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The Information Kiosk is a multi-media, touch-screen facility providing information targetted at the general public at no charge while the CSL Database stores information targetted for the use by the business community and researchers at a nominal charge.

The main objectives of the CSL are to assist users in obtaining information related to government administration and management, and to coordinate efforts in the promotion and creation of public domain databases and in networking government agencies.

The CSL project is a joint effort between Mampu and Mesiniaga Sdn Bhd.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said earlier that the CSL service went into operation in June and that 11 subscribers, including Reliance Shipping, Shell and Shanqri-la Hotel, were using the service.

He said he hoped that by the end of 1995, overseas subscribers would be allowed to make use of the service. -- Bernama

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