

Multimedia super corridor being established

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Government has embarked on an ambitious programme to establish a Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) in Malaysia stretching from Kuala Lumpur to the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mo-

hamad said today.

Dr Mahathir said the corridor encompassed an area about 15km wide and 40km long.

"This corridor will not only house the new KLIA with the most advanced Total Airport Management System (TAMS) but also the new Government centre of

Putrajaya, which is being planned to be an Intelligent City."

He said software, hardware and systems companies in the computer, telecommunications and broadcasting industries would be attracted to locate their operations in the MSC.

"Businesses integrating

both the print and the electronic media, including publishing, information services, broadcasting and movie industries will be prioritised.

"World class companies in these business areas will be invited and local companies encouraged to become their business partners," he

said when opening the INFOTECH '95 conference at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

Dr Mahathir said multimedia cities would be created in the MSC catering for various industries.

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High levels of efficiency to be achieved

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"Around the KLIA, the Airport City will facilitate and synergise air travel. The city will not only cater for businesses but also integrate passenger transport with the travel and tourist businesses globally."

He said Putrajaya would see the creation of new kinds of government services made possible through information technology and multimedia.

Higher levels of efficiency and productivity will be achieved by using IT to transform the internal operations and processes of gov-

ernment agencies.

"Services offered to the public will also be re-engineered, for the clients to interact directly with the public servants through electronic means and in some cases even avail themselves of the services by direct interaction with intelligent and automatic IT systems."

He said multimedia, its co-ordination and development, including the proposed Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), would be placed under the Prime Minister's Department. "Co-ordination is necessary as multimedia touch-

es upon many kinds of information infrastructures and information contents.

"The MDC will be the master planner and strategic arm for the creation of the MSC and will also promote it throughout the world to attract the best companies to work for us."

Dr Mahathir said people must not only gain competency and literacy in IT but must also know their specialised areas as well so that they might be able to re-engineer the necessary work processes.

In conjunction with the opening, Dr Mahathir also fielded questions via a video

conferencing link-up with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Institut Teknologi Mara, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia.

The three-day INFOTECH conference entitled National Information Superhighway and Multimedia Applications -- National Consensus for Policy and Programme Development is being sponsored by Telekom Malaysia Berhad, *New Straits Times*, Time Telekom, Epson Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Binariang Sdn Bhd and Bay Network.