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IT

INCLUDE NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN SEVENTH PLAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- The DAP has proposed that a National Information Technology (IT) policy be formulated and included in the Seventh Malaysia Plan to help develop Malaysia as a world-class communications network.

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said today that the National IT policy would also ensure that Malaysians had one of the highest take-up rates of new information technologies.

He said in a statement, here, that the policy should be formulated with a vision to transform Malaysia into an intelligent nation to enhance both the national competitive advantages in the global marketplace as well as the quality of life.

Such a policy was in line with the recent announcement by Education Minister Datuk Najib Tun Razak that all schools would be equipped with electronic resource centres linked to the Internet which is rapidly becoming a mainstream form of communication.

He said a serious concern for an IT policy and strategy was to ensure the avoidance of an "information-rich, information-poor" society.

He was responding to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement last night that the cabinet would hold a special meeting on the Seventh Malaysian Plan tomorrow

Lim said there must be a special strategy for Malaysians to access the Internet like establishing nationwide community IT access points, such as libraries and community centres, where the people could go to access electronic information and services.

He said there were already complaints that the Jaring internet services had again become congested and clogged, particularly during weekends and holidays, because of the inability of Jaring to ensure that its communication infrastructure kept ahead of demand.

He added that there was a need for a greater focus on government IT strategies and policies to provide better-quality public services to Malaysians and more timely information from the government. -- Bernama