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Internet

JARINGERS SEEK PM'S HELP FOR LOWER PHONE TARIFF

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- A group of Internet users today appealed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to help resolve what they say is the problem of high Internet rate charged by Telekom Malaysia Berhad.

The existing rate would deter the people from using the Internet and defeat the government's aim of creating an information-rich society, said the Internet users who call themselves Jaringers.

"Instead, by its profit-maximising method, it is negating the Prime Minister's effort by deterring and stunting the growth of the Internet in Malaysia," their spokesman Ahmad Tifli said in a statement.

The Jaringers and Telekom Malaysia had a second meeting to discuss an alternative method to achieve the pay-as-you-use (one sen/minute charge) scheme yesterday.

On June 7, they had a meeting to discuss the 1511 packages, named after the number to dial to get preferential access to the Internet.

Ahmad said Telekom Malaysia refused to budge from the 1511 packages as they were approved by the Cabinet. To date, about 10,000 registrations have been received for the 1511 packages.

The Jaringers said the 1511 packages were inflexible and restrictive as they were based on blocks of 25 or 50 hours.

On May 15, Energy, Telecommunications and Post Minister Datuk Leo Moggie announced two alternative packages of telephone rates for Internet users together with Telekom Malaysia' overall tariff review.

Registered Internet users could either opt for the first package of RM15 to use the Internet up to 25 hours a month or the second package which is for the use of 50 hours at a rate of RM30 a month.

Those who opted for the first package and yet used the Internet for more than 25 hours would be charged three sen per excess minute.

Subscribers not registered will be charged RM45 for the first package and RM90 if they use the Internet for 50 hours. -- BERNAMA

HS YBY