

01 AUG 1996

MSC ACCESS RATES SHOULD BE COMPETITIVE, SAYS ORACLE CEO

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Access to the telecommunications and network in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) should be competitively priced at a flat rate or be free, Oracle Corporation president and chief executive officer Ray Lane said today.

It would not be too far away when the cost of using a telephone for a year and not using it would be about the same; the value of transmission would go down as the hi-tech infrastructure would facilitate easy and realistic transmission, he added.

He was participating in a panel discussion on "Critical Success Factors for the Multimedia Super Corridor," at the Multimedia Super Corridor Conference and Exposition, Multimedia Asia`96 here.

Lane said the focus of MSC should be on attracting skills that create content for, without content, it would be "very grim, very expensive and not competitive."

MSC is a 15 km by 50 km area encompassing the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), the KL International Airport in Sepang (KLIA) the new administrative centre Putrajaya and IT City, west of Putrajaya.

To make MSC a success, Malaysia would require an extremely aggressive programme to create educational environments for balanced programmes in engineering, science, music, arts and drama in the universities, he added.

"There is a need to have a balanced education programme in the country as the multimedia world is giving a critical competitive edge, and students can use arts in advanced science programme," he said in reply to a question from Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on the building up of a conducive environment for MSC.

Anwar, also the finance minister, chaired the first session. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the conference today.

Lane said once the education environment was established, it could create leaders whose skills could be used domestically, within the Asian region and globally.

He also said that in promoting the MSC, focus should be given to understanding how industries would operate in five to 10 years hence, and how MSC could give them an advantage. -- BERNAMA

YY LDB