

20 AUG 1996

MTDC PROJECTS COST TO DEVELOP 1,250 HECTARES IN MSC AT RM600 MLN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) will develop 1,250 hectares in the earmarked Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) over the next two years, a senior official said today.

He estimated the cost to provide infrastructure for potential leading information technology (IT) companies like Microsoft, NEC and NTT at about RM600 million.

"We are finalising the terms of agreement with our joint venture partner who is the land owner, a listed property related company of the Selangor government. We like to see the project take-off as soon as possible," he told Bernama here today.

The location of the project area is seven km west of Putrajaya, the new electronic government administrative centre and 14 km to the KL International Airport in Sepang.

Land prices in the designated MSC area have shot up from RM10 per square foot to RM60, MTDC chief executive officer Anuar Md Nor said at the Multimedia Asia Conference and Exposition recently.

The MSC covers a 15 km by 50 km area, encompassing the Kuala Lumpur City Centre, Putrajaya, KL International Airport and IT City.

Under the RM5-billion project unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, several information technology services and facilities including a multimedia, networked paperless administration, regional telemedicine centre and the world's first national multipurpose smartcards would be made available in three-and-a-half years.

Other facilities are a collaborative cluster of universities and corporate research and development (R&D) centres, a manufacturing co-ordination and engineering support hub, a multimedia customer service hub and a multimedia-linked financial haven.

Also in the pipeline are a multimedia university and technology schools.

The official, who requested anonymity, said MTDC would hold a minority stake (30 percent) and the balance by the listed company which he did not name.

MTDC, he said, would develop a Science Park and, along with a Silicon Valley company, it would establish a multimedia support industry in the MSC.

"We are also negotiating with some companies to locate their manufacturing base in the MSC," he added.

He said MTDC expected about 100 to 200 companies to be located in the MSC. "We will give priority to local companies to operate in the MSC."

The MSC would be divided into various lot sizes, from 2.5 hectares to 12.5 hectares, and factory buildings would be the flatted type, he added.

-- BERNAMA

JSM LDB