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Mohamed-Acts

TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION ACTS MAY BE AMEDNED

JOHOR BAHRU, May 18 (Bernama) -- Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today the government is considering amending all acts related to telecommunication and dissemination of information.

He said the amendments were necessary as information technology had developed rapidly and most of the acts were drawn up by the British and were obsolete.

"Many of the existing laws are no longer suitable and we need our own laws because of the rapid development and growth," he told reporters after opening the Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan St Joseph Parents-Teachers Association general meeting here.

Mohamed said if acts were no longer appropriate and obstructed progress, new acts should be formulated.

The Cabinet had set up a high-level committee to study laws related to telecommunication and information to ensure their growth and they would make their recommendations soon, he added.

The committee include officers from the ministries of Science, Technology and Environment, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Home, Information, Energy, Telecommunications and Posts

Mohamed said laws needed to take into consideration the sensitivities, stability, and security of the country as Malaysians were made up of various races and religions.

"We do not want people to create communal and cultural conflicts. They should instead emphasise on the unity aspect as it was crucial to the country," he said.

Mohamed said the government wanted to turn Kuala Lumpur into a information technology centre in this region and this was one of the objectives of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Japan.

What was of concern now was the problem of phonography as it could also be channeled through information technology, he said. -- BERNAMA

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