

24/01/1997

## Bar Council offers to assist in drafting cyber laws

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Bar Council today praised the Prime Minister on his vision of establishing the Multimedia Super Corridor and offered its assistance in formulating cyber laws.

Its president Hendon Mohamed said the Malaysian Bar had experts in multimedia law and was willing to assist in drawing up the legal framework and drafting new laws, in particular on intellectual property rights and computer crime.

"The council is also willing to assist in the setting up of a Cyber Court of Justice, an exciting new phase in our court system which will cater for the highly specialised nature of disputes arising from the MSC," she said in a press statement.

Hendon said the council noted with interest the points recently raised by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the need for a comprehensive framework of societal and commerce-enabling cyber laws, in particular the establishment of the International Advisory Panel.

Meanwhile, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang reiterated that the Government should make public the four proposed cyber laws which had been approved by the Cabinet.

He said if they were made public, Malaysia would not need international attention for legislating such laws without any extensive public discussion or feedback.

"Although the Prime Minister has returned from his recent trip to the United States and Japan to sell our MSC there is still no news about making public the four cyber bills approved by Cabinet.

"The cyber bills, on digital signature, multimedia copyright, computer crimes and telemedicine development should be made public without any delay so that Malaysia would not acquire international attention as a country which legislates cyber laws without any extensive public discussions or feedback," he said in a statement.

Lim, who is Tanjong MP, said in other countries proposed cyber laws have received extensive public comment and feedback.

He said the Bar Council's offer to assist in the development and formulation of the new cyber laws as well as in setting up of a Cyber Court of Justice was most welcome.

"It should be accepted by the Government as it will open a new chapter of Government-Bar Council co-operation on legislative matters," he said.

In another statement, DAP national vice-chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw proposed that the Education Ministry review the methods of assessing pupils promoted from Standard Three to Standard Five.

"The Ministry should consider replacing the third year assessment examination with daily assessment by teachers."

Dr Tan, who is Kepong MP, was commenting on a recent directive from the Ministry to schools that they give special attention to such pupils.

(END)