

26/02/1997

Cyber laws draft ready, says Dr M

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the draft of the Cyber Laws for Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) is ready and will be tabled during next month's Parliament sitting.

"The draft is ready but we are still finetuning it," the Prime Minister told reporters after recording his special message on MSC at Angkasapuri yesterday.

The message will be aired by RTM over TV1 at 8.30pm today.

Dr Mahathir said the three main aspects of the draft are the Digital Signature Act, Intellectual Property Act and Computer Crime Act, which among other things, provide for the freedom of foreign investors to invest in Malaysia.

He said the Government does not provide much investment protection but will offer tax exemptions to investors who participate in the MSC.

Asked when he will discuss the Cyber Laws with Asean leaders as cross-boundary matters are involved, he said no date has been fixed.

Touching on problems encountered by multimedia firms in bringing their personnel to Malaysia, particularly from India, Dr Mahathir said the Government has eased the conditions for only those with knowledge on multimedia.

"In this way, they can get staff easily and I hope they will bring in skilled people from abroad to enable us to learn from them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he is confident that multimedia investors will come to Malaysia to develop the industry as the country is providing the best facilities.

On Monday, Dr Mahathir announced that the MSC is expected to take off next month with the Multimedia University and Nippon Telephone and Telegraph (NTT) of Japan becoming the first two organisations to begin their operations there.

This will make the two organisations the first "experiment" projects of the MSC, which is the brainchild of the Prime Minister.

The NTT will set up its research and development facilities while the university will be located in "Cyberjaya", which is adjacent to Putrajaya, the new administrative centre.

Describing the response as overwhelming, Dr Mahathir had said the Multimedia Development Corp (MDC) has received over 400 inquiries from foreign and local joint-venture multimedia companies since the Prime Minister's mission to the US and Japan last month to "sell the MSC".

The MDC will study all proposals received before deciding on the companies to be given approval to operate in the MSC.

(END)