

04 MAR 1997

Moggie-Laws

CYBER LAWS WILL BE NATIONAL IN NATURE, SAYS MOGGIE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 4 (Bernama) -- The proposed Cyber Laws will be national in nature and will not be limited to Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie said today.

He said, for example, those committing computer crimes would be prosecuted under the laws if they were committed within the MSC or outside the area.

"Of course it means that you will first have to find the perpetrator before you can do that, which is not that easy in the computer world," he told reporters after opening the two-day Telecommunications Conference 1997, organised by the Institution of Engineers Malaysia, here.

Moggie, however, said specific applications of the laws would initially be very much focussed to help in the implementation of the MSC.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last month that the draft of the Cyber Laws was ready and would be tabled at this month's Parliament sitting.

Moggie also said the hacking incidents involving Telekom Malaysia Bhd's TMNet last month should not be blown out of proportion as such incidents occurred worldwide.

"This type of activity in a computer network will always happen, there will always be that risk...it's not possible to have a 100 per cent security in any computer network," he said.

On whether more Internet service provider (ISP) licences should be given out, Moggie said the two current providers were adequate for the time being.

Apart from Telekom Malaysia, Internet services are provided by the Malaysian Institute of Microelectronics (Mimos) Bhd through its Jaring network.

Nevetheless, Moggie did not rule out the possibility of additional ISP licences being given out if there were demands for more Internet connections.

Earlier, in his speech, he said investments in telecommunications in the country were expected to reach between RM62.5 billion and RM125 billion by the year 2020. -- BERNAMA

MAM RM