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## Cyberjaya land acquisition expedited

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A CERTIFICATE of urgency will be issued to the relevant authorities to have them expedite the land acquisition process at Cyberjaya, the information technology city within the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

The Multimedia Development Corp (MDC), the corporatised entity entrusted to promote and implement the MSC, has also set up Cyberview Holdings, a consortium that will oversee the Cyberjaya project.

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone of Japan, Telekom Malaysia Bhd, Permodalan Nasional Bhd, and the Selangor Government are the other members of the consortium.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Government wants all problems to be settled as soon as possible in time for Cyberjaya's ground-breaking ceremony which will be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in May.

Priority will be given to land acquisition matters. "We will issue a certificate of urgency to the relevant authorities to expedite the process to enable speedier implementation of the project.

"For a start, the certificate will be given to expedite the acquisition of some 750ha of the 2,800ha site for the proposed development of Cyberjaya," he told reporters after chairing the MSC Implementation Committee meeting in Sepang yesterday.

The certificate of urgency, part of the procedures stipulated under the National Land Code, allows the relevant authorities among other things to handle matters related to terms of compensation.

On the MSC, Anwar said the Government foresees minimal problems pertaining to land acquisition as most of the designated areas involve government-owned land.

"A large part belongs to the Government... Selangor State Agriculture Development Corp, Yayasan Selangor and Youth land schemes.

"On the private sector side, Golden Hope Plantations, a subsidiary of Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB), occupies a large area. Some individuals also own land in the area but not that many," he added.

On compensation, Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, said the Government will make an evaluation. However, he declined to reveal the basis of the exercise, saying it may result in speculation. "Furthermore, the compensation will be borne by the private sector," he said.

Anwar also said the Selangor State Government has been very cooperative and has taken the necessary measures to address any possible land acquisition problems.

"The State Government has taken immediate action and so far, this has been very satisfactory," he added.

Meanwhile, Cyberview Holdings will monitor the Cyberjaya project's progress, which will be constructed in phases. Some participating companies are expected to complete locating their operation centres there next year, and others will do so in 1999 and 2000.

"Basic infrastructure projects such as telecommunications facilities, and electricity and water supplies are expected to be completed early next year," Anwar said.

On the number of applications received from companies keen to participate in the MSC, Anwar said the response from foreign as well as local multimedia companies has been encouraging.

"For example, Telekom is expected to locate its multimedia faculty and

research and development centre in the MSC, while Sistem Televisyen Malaysia Bhd, or TV3, will set up a new complex in the corridor.

"Others such as PNB and Golden Hope Plantations plan to set up their new head offices and research centres, while MDC will also build its headquarters in the MSC," he said, adding that currently there are more than 400 companies interested in applying for MSC status.

Anwar said yesterday's meeting was a follow-up to an earlier meeting in Langkawi.

MDC executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said the company started processing applications from March 15 and successful applicants will be awarded MSC status in a month.

In view of the encouraging response from foreign companies, he said, work on the MSC project, and Cyberjaya in particular, will have to start immediately.

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