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Cyberjaya-Development

CYBERJAYA - THE BEST OF INTELLIGENT CITIES IN THE WORLD

By: Tham Choy Lin

KUALA LUMPUR, May 2 (Bernama) - Cyberjaya, the nucleus of Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), will be a cut above Silicon Valley and other existing intelligent cities in the world, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said today.

The self-contained and eco-friendly city to be completed a year ahead than planned will be launched on May 17 when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad performs the ground-breaking ceremony.

"Cyberjaya will be an utopia for multimedia development. It will provide the most ideal working and living environment to attract big multimedia players to invest in the MSC," Othman said when briefing the press on the launching ceremony.

Also present was Town and Country Planning Department Director-General Datuk Zainuddin Muhammad who is also the chairman of the steering committee for the launching ceremony.

Cyberjaya is located next to Putrajaya, the new intelligent administrative capital. Covering an area of 7,000 hectares, the self-contained and eco-friendly city is separated from Putrajaya by a highway to be named Route 2020.

The development of the two cities will be known as Megajaya.

The number of companies that have been granted MSC status to set up in Cyberjaya has risen to 34 comprising 19 foreign and 15 local companies, said Othman.

They include Nippon Telephone and Telegraph (NTT), Telekom Malaysia, TV3, Fujitsu, Siemens, British Telecoms, Golden Hope Plantation and MDC which oversees the development of the MSC.

Asked on the cost of setting up operations in Cyberjaya, Othman said land is priced competitively between RM30 and RM40 per square feet.

The first phase of the Cyberjaya project will be the development of a 2,800 hectare flagship zone for global and local companies to establish research and development centres on information technology and other high-technology enterprises.

Othman said a survey of highly-skilled personnel indicated that they placed premium on working and living environment above salary and this will be reflected in Cyberjaya.

Like its twin city of Putrajaya, the lush green environment of Cyberjaya will be preserved. Thirty-five percent of open space will be maintained compared to the normal 10 per cent requirement.

The preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for Cyberjaya has been approved. The final report is also expected to be given the nod by the Department of Environment on May 12.

Othman said Cyberjaya will have a low density population of 35 persons per hectare. The target population for Cyberjaya is 240,000 including 10,000 knowledge workers.

Manufacturing will also be discouraged except for high-tech products derived from research and development conducted within the MSC.

Cyberjaya will be served by the most advanced physical and software infrastructure including a 2.5 to 10 gigabit telecommunications network to be built by Telekom Malaysia, state-of-the-art information technology and multimedia services and other advanced facilities.

The infrastructure will be in place by 1999. But companies can begin

operating from Cyberjaya by end 1998, said Othman in response to a question.

The MSC is a 15km by 50km zone south of Kuala Lumpur extending between the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang and the Kuala Lumpur City Centre. -- BERNAMA

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