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MSC-Lim

DAP EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR PRIME MINISTER'S MOVE ON MSC

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- The DAP today expressed its support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's move to explain further to the people the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project.

DAP Secretary-General Lim Kit Siang said "many of us including myself in the beginning didn't really understand what the MSC is but now after talking so much about it, I understand it."

Dr Mahathir's admission of public ignorance about the MSC last Wednesday when speaking to reporters after recording his Hari Raya Aidilfitri message at Angkasapuri was very refreshing, as there is no doubt that there is indeed ignorance about the MSC in the country, he said in a statement here today.

"In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that more than 99 per cent of the Malaysian population does not understand the MSC," he added.

The level of knowledge among Members of Parliament about the MSC in particular and of Information Technology (IT) revolution in general is also very limited, Lim said.

"This is why and it is most unfortunate that the government is not yet prepared to make public the cyberbills it has finalised... to give MPs time to educate themselves about the new frontiers of cyberspace," he said.

Lim said that it could be asked how many Cabinet Ministers and top civil servants really understood the MSC as to be able to explain to the people about its relevance and importance to the country and the IT revolution Malaysia wanted to undergo in the new century.

He said there were many areas both about the MSC and the IT revolution that the government must explain to the people.

"The government has announced that the key component of the MSC is a collection of eight flagship applications, but what Malaysians cannot understand is why four of the most important flagships, namely electronic government, telemedicine, smart card and smart school, must wait until the completion of Putrajaya and Cybercity in the MSC before they could be launched," Lim said.

If the electronic government, telemedicine, smart card and "smart school" are to be confined only to the MSC, then it would defeat both the equity and universal principles of the Information Age, he said.

Lim noted that the Prime Minister had said that there was a need for Malaysia to switch to electronic methods to facilitate government and public interaction even before the completion of the new Prime Minister's Office in the new Federal capital in Putrajaya in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) next year.

There was no reason why IT initiatives should artificially wait for the completion of the MSC before they could be launched as any IT innovation must be able to benefit the whole country, Lim added. -- BERNAMA

YBK AAM