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Dr M conducts special video-conferencing session on MSC

WATCHED by some 13,000 participants in 28 locations, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday conducted a special video-conferencing session on Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), the largest video-conferencing link-up in the country.

Organised by Telekom Malaysia Bhd, the video-conferencing was attended by Menteri Besar, state executive councillors and assemblymen, senior government officials, businessmen, teachers and students.

The video-conferencing was linked-up to 28 locations, of which 14 were interactive centres which provide the opportunity for participants to interact and pose questions to the Prime Minister.

Ten of the locations were in Selangor, Sarawak (four), Sabah (two) and one each in Perlis, Kedah, Perak, Johor, Kelantan, Kuala Lumpur, Pahang, Terengganu, Labuan, Malacca, Penang and Negri Sembilan.

During the video-conferencing, which lasted for about two hours, a representative from each state, including Labuan, was given the opportunity to pose questions pertaining to the concept and development of the MSC.

In his opening speech, Dr Mahathir said the MSC was initiated to prepare Malaysians to face the challenges in the changing information age.

"We have to admit that the public has the right to the access of information. We cannot prevent the public from getting access to information," he added.

In the present information age, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should participate actively so that they would ascertain the impact of information, either bad or good, on the society.

"Previously, we were very passive, accepting whatever impact from the information disseminated through information technology (IT). But this time, we should be more active to try to gauge the impact, whether it is good or bad effect," he added.

Citing the wildcat strike by air traffic controllers at the airport in India recently, Dr Mahathir said through IT, Malaysians were able to know about the incident promptly and adjust their schedules.

"There are some information from other countries that we can respond to, while there are some which are of no use to us. It is up to us how to respond," he added.

On unhealthy elements and information found in the Internet, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia may have to sign a memorandum of understanding with other countries to control the information disseminated through internet.

"But we have to admit that we cannot control the public from getting information. The best way is for us to vet the information ourselves," he said, adding the MSC will provide an avenue for Malaysia to seek ways to counter and control the unhealthy elements from corrupting the society.

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