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EIA report for Cyberjaya may be approved soon

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Cyberjaya's Environment Impact Assessment Report should be approved by May 12, Town and Country Planning Department director-general Datuk Zainuddin Muhammad said today.

Zainuddin said that the Department of Environment had instructed that some amendments be made to a preliminary EIA report for the project and was pleased with the finalised version.

The EIA report was prepared by Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Zainuddin, who is also chairman of the steering committee for the ground-breaking ceremony and official launch of Cyberjaya, was speaking to reporters at a briefing on the progress of the project.

Cyberjaya, the first "intelligent city" planned for the Multimedia Super Corridor will complement the development and operations of the new administrative capital of Putrajaya.

It is located within the MSC, west of Putrajaya and covers an area of around 7,000 hectares.

Executive chairman of the Multimedia Development Corporation Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, who was present at the briefing, said the first phase of development would involve 2,800ha of which 750ha would be developed during the first stage.

The rest of the area will be developed according to needs and the resources available.

MDC, Telekom Malaysia, the Selangor Government, Permodalan Nasional Bhd and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation form the consortium given the task of developing the city.

Othman said the development may, at a later stage, expand to cover the hinterland and coastal areas of Cyberjaya, possibly including Carey Island.

He said the development of Cyberjaya was a very exciting phase of the MSC as it was an attempt to balance modern technology and the environment.

"Environment is our selling point and the first thing that we hope will attract a visitor to Cyberjaya is the beauty of the place.

"In line with this, almost 35 per cent of Cyberjaya will be designated "green areas" which is much higher than the 10 per cent requirement for most other projects."

Othman said he expected basic infrastructure at Cyberjaya to be completed by 1998, including telecommunication fibre optic cables, roads and the dedicated highway that would support development in other facets of Cyberjaya.

The dedicated highway linking Cyberjaya with Kuala Lumpur City Centre, Putrajaya and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport will be called Route 2020.

Othman said that so far 19 foreign and 15 local companies had committed themselves to setting up base in Cyberjaya.

Companies will be able to operate from Cyberjaya by late 1998.

Zainuddin said preparations for the launch of the project were well under way and a grand day-long celebration had been planned for the event.

The project scheduled to be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on May 17, will cost RM1 million.

Zainuddin said the launch day would coincide with World Telecommunications Day.

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