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Cyberlaws

GIVE PUBLIC ADVANCE NOTICE ON CYBERLAWS, GOVERNMENT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- The government should give the public and the world cybercommunity advance notice of the four cyber bills before tabling them at the March Dewan Rakyat sitting, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said today.

He said that this was to demonstrate that Malaysia was serious in offering its Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) to the world IT industry.

Since the government had completed drafting the cyber bills and had presented them to the Cabinet, there was no reason why they should not be made public to get the benefit of feedback, not only in the country but from the world cybercommunity, he said in a statement here.

The bills -- the first for a series of cyberlaws for the MSC -- are the Digital Signature, Multimedia Intellectual Property Protection, Computer Crime and Telemedicine Development bills.

The government should be prepared to make further amendments to these draft cyber bills based on the reactions of the national and cybercommunities even before they were presented at the next Dewan Rakyat sitting, he said.

"This is essential as cyberlaws are very new in the world," he said, adding that such a step would serve notice to the world that Malaysia was genuine in offering the MSC to the world IT industry, by inviting the world cybercommunity to actively participate in the formulation of the first cyberlaws in the country.

He said the government should give notice to the public of the cyberlaws as this would demonstrate both to the nation and world that Malaysia would have a new "mindset" necessary for the Information Age and that it could operate in an open and transparent fashion.

Lim made the statement in the wake of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to the United States to promote Malaysia's MSC to potential investors there. -- BERNAMA

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