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DAP-Cyber

KIT SIANG URGES PROPOSED CYBERLAWS BE MADE PUBLIC

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said today the drafts of the four proposed cyberlaws should be made public immediately to allow Members of Parliament to educate themselves on the legal issues.

He said in a statement that hardly any MP knew much about cyberspace.

"There are very few Malaysians who are knowledgeable -- let alone being expert -- in any of these cyberlaws," he said, referring to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement in Los Angeles on Wednesday that Malaysia would introduce four cyberbills in Parliament in March.

The cyberlaws, covering computer crime, digital signatures, multimedia intellectual property rights and telemedicine development, are means to fulfil the promise of the Digital Age through the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

Describing the Prime Minister's statement as "very powerful and visionary", Lim said there were two primary policy concerns among thinking Malaysians about the country's strategy to be in the forefront of the Information Technology Revolution.

"Firstly, whether there would be a balanced development of the National Information Infrastructure throughout the country so as not to create a new divide in Malaysia between the information-rich in the MSC and the information-poor in the rest of the country.

"Secondly, whether there is a national back-up to support and sustain the development of the MSC to become a world IT hub, in terms of the development of world-class IT expertise among new generation of Malaysians or a high level of IT literacy among the general population," he said.

Lim said if the MSC was to become a success, then the government must be able to address both these policy concerns.

Citing an example, Lim said the digital signature laws passed by various states in the United States had become very controversial despite public hearings before they were enacted. -- BERNAMA

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