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Lim: Give us time to study MSC bill

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Government's proposed Bill of Guarantees that governs the Multimedia Super Corridor needs ample time for study, Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang said today.

The Bill sets to provide the best intellectual property protection and cyberlaws in the region.

"...there had been minimal public consultation in the formulation of multimedia intellectual property law," Lim said in a statement.

He said in other countries, extensive consultations took place before new multimedia copyright laws were proposed and enacted because technological advancement raises new issues.

The Government, he said, has not submitted the Multimedia Convergence Bill although it was supposed to be tabled at the next parliament sitting.

He suggested that Cabinet approved bills be made public, including in the Internet, in view of its significant importance.

Lim urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to personally answer questions related to the Bills.

"Dr Mahathir is the best person to inform Dewan Rakyat of the results of his visits and meetings with corporate leaders to promote the MSC.

The Dewan Rakyat will begin its first meeting of the year on Monday and will end on May 7.

Three Bills related to the MSC - the Computer Crime Bill 1997, Digital Signature Bill 1997 and Copyright Amendment Bill 1997 will tabled.

There are 58 questions related to the MSC during the 26-day meeting.

However, Lim may only get his wish after March 29 when Dr Mahathir returns from his five-day official visit to Japan.

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