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Mahathir-MSC

MAHATHIR:MSC WILL CHANGE M'SIA AND WORLD

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that the implementation of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project will change Malaysian society and the rest of the world.

"There will be changes in Malaysia and the rest of the world... this is something nobody can avoid," he said at the news conference after spending a day at Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) which was renamed Universiti Putra Malaysia during his visit to the campus in Serdang near here.

He said Malaysia could change any undesirable developments arising from the MSC or information technology if the technology was well understood.

"...Whether we have MSC or not, we cannot avoid the effect and impact of multimedia and the Information Technology Age," he said replying to a foreign journalist who asked whether the MSC would change Malaysian society and if it would be successful.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was confident that the MSC would be a success.

Dr Mahathir said the MSC had so far attracted a lot of genuine attention from around the world.

Interest to participate in the MSC came from all major players in the IT and multimedia industry.

The Prime Minister said the electronic government which includes the implementation of electronic passport will be a reality in one or two years' time.

He said in future, the passport application process will be more efficient and takes less time.

"We want passport application processes to be made easier with the use of computer kiosks," he said.

He said in future, not only passports but other documents could be processed more efficiently using computers kiosks and through the Internet.

Dr Mahathir said his day-long visit to UPM was to look at the progress of its research and development undertakings.

"I found that a considerable amount of R and D has been done and many are successful. Now we are awaiting their applications," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who also visited the UPM-MTDC Technology Incubation Centre One, said it had been able to arouse the interests of local and foreign companies including those in California's Silicon Valley.

He said he was also impressed with UPM's role in projecting its capabilities in the MSC since it is coincidentally located within the MSC area itself.

Earlier, the prime minister was briefed on the Time-Telekom Earth Station and witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UPM and Time-Telekom.-- BERNAMA

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