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MAHATHIR:M'SIA TO DISCUSS CYBER LAWS WITH ASEAN PARTNERS

SEPANG, May 17 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will discuss with its other Asean counterparts for agreement on common cyber laws, including establishing cyber courts, to protect investors in the information technology (IT) industry, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

Preliminary talks on the matter would be held during the Asean ministerial meeting in July here and the informal summit among Asean leaders, also to be hosted here at the end of the year, he said.

Asean groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

He said the matter needed to be discussed first among Asean members so that "we can get a fair idea and feelings" of other Asean leaders on the issue.

"Unless we agree to some standard, we will be misusing the media," he told reporters after the ground-breaking for Cyberjaya, the country's first intelligent city, here.

However, he said, the world would eventually have to come to terms with the new technology which appeared to have no respect for borders.

Dr Mahathir, during his promotion on the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) in the United States early this year, assured the US information technology investors that Malaysia would give priority to cyber laws to protect their rights. -- BERNAMA

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