

22 JUL 1997

Mohamed-IT

MAHATHIR TO LAUNCH IT CAMPAIGN

MELAKA, July 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch an Information Technology (IT) campaign next month aimed at giving a wider exposure and instilling the IT culture among the people.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the campaign themed "Information Technology: Our Way of Life" would emphasise on the benefits of IT to the people.

He said his ministry was waiting for a suitable date from Dr Mahathir to launch the campaign which would be telecast live nationwide.

Mohamed was speaking to reporters after Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Abu Zahar Isnin opened the Information Department directors meeting here today.

Also present was the ministry's parliamentary secretary Datuk Shafie Apdal.

He also urged state governments to ensure success of the campaign as the government's objective was to take full advantage of IT with the people's participation.

"We don't want any section of the people to be computer illiterate," he said.

In the pursuit for progress, the people must strive to acquire skills and expertise in IT failing which they would be regarded as backward.

By having the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), Malaysians were fortunate to have the opportunity to acquire latest information on new findings in the field of medicine, science and technology, he said.

Mohamed said he regretted that certain groups were instilling fear among the people that the IT would poison the thinking of the younger generation.

"These people only looked at the negative aspects of IT. They must look at the brighter side of IT to progress in tandem with others," he said.

Mohamed also said RTM was negotiating with cable TV Astro to get broadcasting rights for delayed telecast of international soccer matches and boxing.

He said Astro had been offered the broadcasting rights to screen 200 English Premier League soccer matches, FA Cup, Division One and several international football matches and boxing. -- BERNAMA

MYD TS