

28 APR 1997

Mohamed-IT

NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN ON IT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 28 (Bernama) -- The Information Ministry will submit a proposal to the Cabinet on the need to hold an integrated campaign on Information Technology (IT) to ensure the success of the national agenda to make Malaysia a developed country by the year 2020.

Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the big campaign involving agencies under his ministry and the private sector was aimed at enlightening the people on the need for the IT and to ensure their acceptance of it.

He hoped the Cabinet would agree to the campaign with Radio and Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) becoming the main moving force behind it.

The Information Department would be mobilised to make the people realise the importance of the IT in national development, he said after talks with New Zealand High Commissioner Timothy Hannah at his office here.

Mohamed said the people should be exposed adequately to the IT and understand the government's agenda to make Malaysia a developed country.

"Without knowing the IT and understanding and accepting it, the country is unlikely to realise its aspiration to become a developed nation by the year 2020," he said.

On his talks with Hannah, Mohamed said they discussed bilateral cooperation in the fields of broadcasting and information and coverage of the KL Commonwealth Games.

He said Television New Zealand (TVNZ) as the official broadcaster of the Auckland Commonwealth Games could share its experience with RTM.

TVNZ had also been requested to organise training in broadcasting and information to RTM and Information Department employees, he said.

An agreement to this effect was reached when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited New Zealand last year.

Mohamed, who is also Barisan Nasional Secretary-General, said that at a recent meeting of Members of Parliament, the Dewan Negara and state assemblies as well as leaders of BN component parties, it was agreed that they take on the responsibility to explain the IT and find ways to overcome the social malaise among youth.

"They will use their influence to explain the importance of the IT to the people," he said. -- BERNAMA

SJA OBA AAM