

11/08/1997

PM to launch IT awareness drive

Khairun Nazirah

BAGAN DATOH, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch a nationwide Information Technology awareness campaign to educate the people on the topic at the end of the month.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the campaign, jointly organised by his ministry, Mimos Berhad and the Multimedia Development Council was to ensure that IT became a way of life among Malaysians.

He said once the campaign was launched, Dr Mahathir would go on television and radio's prime time to talk to the people on what IT was all about and how they could contribute towards making it a success for the country.

"The people must realise that IT is here and that it is going to be part of our life as it will steer our country towards the next millennium," he said after launching a series of programmes to mark Bagan Datoh's 100-year celebrations today.

Mohamed added that even the print media would be directed to focus on IT events and topics while the business sector would have to gear towards IT-orientated investments.

"The main infrastructure is there, so all that is needed is to bring in the investment to complement the project," he said.

Mohamed agreed that there were some negative aspects on the Internet as such material could not be blocked.

"However, we are taking steps to overcome this and if the whole world put their minds together we will come up with a way of putting a stop to the negative elements," he said.

He added that in the meantime the Government had decided to allow free flow of information through the Internet.

"What is important is that we want to prove to the world that we can take the lead when we set up our Multimedia Super Corridor and we are serious in making it a success," he said.

Earlier, Mohamed said Malaysia, which is enjoying racial harmony, political and economic stability, low inflation rate and zero unemployment was the envy of many developed nations.

"Wherever our leaders go they are asked how Malaysia has managed to achieve all these despite having a multi-racial population and in fact some have even sent their officials here to learn from us," he said.

Malaysia has now earned the respect of several countries and its people can hold their heads up high and be proud to be Malaysians.

Meanwhile, Bagan Datoh Member of Parliament and Umno Youth Chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi called on Bagan Datoh residents who had carved a name for themselves in the business and corporate world or who are currently holding top positions in the public sector to return to their hometown during the centenary celebrations.

Several programmes including sales, exhibitions, talks, forums and telematches, have been lined up until Sept 1 in conjunction with the celebrations.

(END)