

14/11/1997

Steer IT campaign towards promoting educated society

Chooi Yean

THE recent National IT Awareness Programme launched by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was to mark the beginning of the revolutionary thinking in our society towards a "civil and informed society".

As rightly put in the letter by Sanath Sukumaran, "IT literacy not restricted to elite segment of society" (NST, Nov 10), the ordinary people should be educated on what information technology is and the role it will play in the future.

But the most disappointing aspect of the whole campaign was the programme put up on the night of the launch. The agenda on that night does not put us on the track as being an informed society or an educated society. The sketches put up by the artists and the song Sayang IT do not enlighten us at all on information technology.

The desired end result is not just a society that is able to operate the computer and access the Internet. The essence of information technology is how we use the information to promote an educated, informed and creative society.

In Computimes (Nov 10), Information Ministry secretary-general Datuk Zawawi Mahmuddin's statement that the ministry is going to work with State Governments on ways to further this "National IT Awareness Campaign" is not reassuring that we are heading in the right direction.

Maybe we should figure out how singing about IT can make us love IT?