

15 MAR 1997

Najib-Multimedia

UPM-MTDC TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION CENTRE FOR MSC

SERDANG, March 15 (Bernama) -- Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) has reserved part of its campus to serve as a centre for multimedia activities, giving a boost to the implementation of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

The joint effort with the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) -- itself a joint venture between the public and private sectors -- to set up a UPM-MTDC Technology Incubation Centre 1 will promote multimedia activities, especially those involving local companies and the MSC.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak lauded the university's pioneering move and said this would establish it as the premier local institution of higher learning, foremost in the field of multimedia and the MSC.

"I give my fullest support to UPM's efforts towards becoming one of the main centres for ensuring the success of the multimedia concept. After all, it is located within the MSC," he told reporters after inspecting the technology incubation centre and operation site of Time Telecommunications Sdn Bhd, here, today.

The centre -- to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on April 3 -- covers a 0.48ha area, and will initially have 13 local multimedia companies.

The 13 firms are Malaysia Agri Hi-Tech Sdn Bhd, MTDC Technology Media Sdn Bhd, FJ Technologies Sdn Bhd, Alam Teknokrat Sdn Bhd, Utusan PNMB On-Line Sdn Bhd, Telekom Malaysia Bhd (R&D Unit), UPM-MTDC Multimedia Academy Sdn Bhd, HTI Systems Sdn Bhd, World View Sdn Bhd, Aimquest (M) Corp Sdn Bhd, Internetwork Micro-Solution Sdn Bhd, Malaysian Optonic Systems Sdn Bhd dan Massmedia Interactive Sdn Bhd.

Najib said the multimedia firms, which will engage in various application, service, research and development activities, will be given incentives such as financial facilities, tax exemption and "Bill of Guarantess" like what foreign firms in the MSC are given.

"I am sure this is only the beginning. The interest shown by local multimedia firms has been astounding," he said, adding that the firms would get to use UPM's human resources and academic facilities while UPM would benefit from the technology transfer and other academic advancements.

Asked about the capacity of the centre as a hub for the MSC's operations, Najib noted that basic facilities such as offices, telecommunications infrastructure and networking with the MSC were already in place.

"In fact, UPM has been supplied with 2.5 gigabits of fibre optics by Time Telecom to facilitate telecommunications here," he added.

Najib said the government planned to expand UPM's role in multimedia activities in view of the greater participation from more local companies.

"We are expecting many more firms to use the facilities at UPM. This is good as the government does not want foreign companies to dominate the field," he said. -- BERNAMA

HS LL JK