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Budget-public sector

BE BUSINESS-FRIENDLY TO STIMULATE ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVANTS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- Civil servants would have to work even harder and adopt a business-friendly attitude to help stimulate the country's economic growth, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"A business friendly attitude in carrying out their functions and responsibilities will assist in the prompt implementation of projects and minimise bureaucratic red tape which benefits no one," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also First Finance Minister, said this when tabling the 1999 national budget at the Dewan Rakyat here today.

He said the government was deeply appreciative of civil servants' contributions, including their sacrifice to accept monthly allowance cuts of between RM14 and RM600 from January this year.

Dr Mahathir said the government's participation in Cyberview, the company building Malaysia's first intelligent city Cyberjaya, was to convince the private sector of its commitment towards developing Cyberjaya.

As of the third quarter of the year, 19 companies have been relocated in Cyberjaya and 31 more are expected to do likewise by the end of the year, he said.

A total of 179 companies had secured MSC status enabling them to get all the privileges in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

Cyberjaya is within the MSC which is 750 square km zone south of here designated as a hub for the development of multimedia products and services.

The MSC also incorporates the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang and Putrajaya, the federal government's new administrative capital.

Dr Mahathir said the 1999 budget proposed a RM110-million allocation for the development of flagship applications namely telemedicine, electronic government, smart-schools and multipurpose cards to spur the development of the MSC.

He said RM100 million would also be spent on addressing the "millennium bug" or the "Y2K" problem in public sector computer systems.

"Millennium bug" refers to a malfunction when the computer cannot differentiate the year 2000 from 1900 as most systems use the last two digits to represent the year.

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