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Moggie-Commission

COMMISSION MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED BEFORE YEAR-END, SAYS MOGGIE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Leo Moggie is hopeful that members of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission will be appointed by year end.

"The chairman has been appointed and under the law we need to appoint a maximum of four others," he told reporters after opening the Honeywell Southeast Asia User Group 1998 conference at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, here.

He said one of the members would represent the government while the rest would come from the relevant industries.

Moggie said the new ministry, which came into being on Nov 1, would treat the appointments as an urgent matter.

The establishment of the commission, together with the renaming of the former Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Ministry, was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 30.

The new ministry would, among others, chart the long-term strategy of the communications and multimedia industry while the commission would serve as the single regulatory authority for the converged industry of telecommunications, broadcasting and computing.

Former Telekom Malaysia executive director Dr Syed Hussein Mohamed has been named chairman of the commission which has a launching grant of RM122 million.

In his speech, Moggie said that in today's information technology (IT) era, businesses needed to be daring and innovative to enable them to have a competitive edge over others.

He said much of the radical changes affecting the world today were the result of the pervasiveness of modern technology, in particular IT.

In this connection, he said, Malaysia would have an estimated two million Internet users by the end of 2000 while RM600 billion worth of goods and services were expected to be transacted by means of electronic commerce over the same period.

Honeywell is a United States-based company which provides control technologies for buildings, homes, industries, space and aviation. It employs 56,500 people in 95 countries, including Malaysia, and had a 1997 sales of US\$8 billion.

-- BERNAMA

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