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Exposition

EMTEK '98 EXPOSES VILLAGE FOLK TO IT

KOTA BAHARU, May 27 (Bernama) -- The six-day Kelantan Multimedia, Telecommunications and Electronics Exposition '98 (Emtek) to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday at Sek Men Chabang Empat, Tumpat, some 20km from here, is expected to introduce village folk to the world of information technology (IT).

The event, which drew the participation of 40 local multimedia companies, is organised by the Pasir Mas Foundation with Telekom Malaysia Berhad being the principal sponsor.

State Department Information Unit head Mohamed Najib Badruddin said Emtek '98, the largest ever of such exposition to be held in the rural areas, is to create awareness and provide motivation for students to master IT.

He said in becoming the nation's future outstanding generation in various fields, the students from now onwards should make IT part of their daily culture.

Mohamed Najib said the Kelantan Education Department, being aware of this aspect, had provided computer laboratories in 30 secondary and primary schools in the state with another 12 to have the facility soon.

He said the learning of IT in schools would indirectly spread the knowledge of using computers among the students' family members.

Encouragement and support by parents was vital in inculcating students' interest in IT where this task should not be left to the teachers alone, he said.

Hence, Mohamed Najib called on parents as well as teachers to bring along the students to the exposition in order to take a closer look at the technology.

Meanwhile, a customer and sales support services executive of a company participating in the event, Kamaruzaman Yaacob, said the exhibition enabled multimedia companies to introduce their products to the public.

"The public will be introduced to a new phenomenon in getting information where they have previously relied on the electronics and print media," he said.

Padi farmer Hussin Abdullah, 52, said he would bring his wife and two grandchildren to witness the expo's opening on Friday.

"I want to be there since I want to know what multimedia is all about," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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