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Mahathir-Ministry

ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTS MINISTRY TO BE RENAMED

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- The Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Ministry will be renamed the Energy, Communications and Multimedia Ministry effective this Sunday.

In announcing this today, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that its minister, Datuk Leo Moggie, would be the minister in the new ministry.

The Information Ministry would relinquish all functions related to policy and regulatory aspects of broadcasting to the new ministry, he said.

However, the Information Ministry will continue to be responsible for policy development and implementation related to systematic and effective dissemination of government information.

The ministry would remain responsible for the management and operation of Radio-Television Malaysia (RTM), the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said that a commission called the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission would also function effective this Sunday, to be chaired by Dr Syed Hussein Mohamed, who between 1993 and this year was involved in engineering consultancy.

Dr Syed Hussein, who holds a doctorate in quality engineering from Birmingham University, resigned as executive director of Telekom Malaysia Bhd in June 1993 to set up an engineering consultancy but remained as non-executive director of the utility firm.

In 1985, he was appointed director of Sime Darby Bhd, responsible for all of the group's Malaysian engineering, manufacturing and trading companies.

Dr Mahathir also said that a launching grant of RM122 million would be provided by the government for the commission.

With the formation of the commission as the single regulatory authority for the converged industry of telecommunications, broadcasting and computing, the role of Jabatan Telekom Malaysia or the Telecommunication Department Malaysia will be displaced.

Some of the present technical functions would, however, be taken over by the commission, he said.

The regulatory function for the Department of Post would also be incorporated into the functions of the commission together with the responsibility of implementing the Digital Signature Act 1997, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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