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Y2K-Allocation

GOVT TO CONSIDER MORE ALLOCATION TO COMBAT MILLENNIUM BUG

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- The government will consider additional allocation for the public sector to address the Millennium Bug or Y2K problem that will affect computer systems come 2000.

National Y2K Task Force chief Nuraizah Abdul Hamid said today the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (Mampu) would contact the agencies concerned to work out the additional allocation needed.

"We will submit the amount to the government soon," she told a media conference, here.

The Y2K problem refers to the inability of some microchips to recognise the year 2000 and beyond in their time-sensitive functions, possibly resulting in system errors or shutdowns.

The government had earlier allocated RM30 million to sectors critical to the economy and wellbeing of the people to address the problem.

Nuraizah said the sectors involved in the additional allocation included the transportation sector and public utilities like hospitals.

Asked about the progress so far, she said some agencies were close to solving the problem and were in the testing stage while others were still looking for a solution.

A detailed report would be submitted to the government at the end of next month.

Earlier, Nuraizah, who is Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Ministry secretary-general, said the ministry would organised a "Y2K Solutions Expo" on Nov 3-6.

The exposition, the biggest in the region, would be held in conjunction with the Asean Telecom'98 exhibition and would feature solutions by 30 participants.

It is scheduled to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

NM JK