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Impact of slowdown on MSC to be discussed

Wendy Lim

THE Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) Implementation Council will be deliberating the impact of the economic slowdown on the project next month.

The meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will include Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Anwar Ibrahim, Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie and other agencies involved in MSC flagship projects.

Multimedia Development Corp Sdn Bhd executive chairman, Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said although Government expenditure on Information Technology (IT) will be scaled down, it is not likely to have a negative impact on the overall development of the MSC.

"The effects will be discussed at the coming meeting," he said at a press conference announcing the second meeting of the International Advisory Panel for the MSC in Cyberjaya yesterday.

Othman said, "We do not see a negative impact on the numbers of investors applying for MSC status. Furthermore, infrastructure development is progressing as scheduled despite economic setbacks."

So far, 101 companies with MSC status, have confirmed their intention to undertake capital investments in the project and many more are on the application list.

He said the MSC is attracting investment for productive activities as the project is viewed as the next engine of growth and will generate economic spin-offs for small- and medium-scale industries.

Othman said the MDC is also compiling a database for a digital labour exchange for companies to secure IT workers. The database is currently at the initial stages of development.

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