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Make use of MSC as invention testbed, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysian companies should take the opportunities presented by the Multimedia Super Corridor as a testbed for their inventions.

The MSC had opportunities for local companies, and not just for companies from abroad.

"This is the hope of the Government, that the MSC will bring many benefits and opportunities for local companies," he said.

He said it was clear that local companies have not been left behind as many already had laboratories in the MSC.

"They have shown abilities which are special and sometimes extraordinary. With the MSC, I am confident that Malaysia can introduce to the world our unique inventions, and market our systems and technologies," he said when launching "MetroVisionews on the Net".

The MetroVision television station will place its daily Malay and English news on the Internet (www.visionews.com), about 45 minutes after it is televised.

Dr Mahathir said this new facility was proof that Malaysia has suitable testbed facilities for multimedia technologies.

There are about 160 companies with MSC status, of which 66 or 41 per cent are local companies.

Dr Mahathir also said it was important to provide accurate information directly to Malaysians, especially those living abroad, as all kinds of information could now be transmitted in a very fast but uncontrolled manner over the Internet.

"That's why recently we found that the Internet was used to spread rumours which were untrue," he said, referring to the recent rumours about riots in the city.

He said this facility would also help overcome the previous problem of providing newspapers to students abroad, and Malaysians abroad would feel less isolated if they had news from home.

MetroVision managing director Sabri A. Rahman said MetroVision was working with three local public universities to provide distance learning programmes sometime next year.

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