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Moggie-Y2K

MECHANISM TO MONITOR COMPANIES ON Y2K- MOGGIE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 3 (Bernama) -- A mechanism will likely be introduced to check on steps taken by companies to tackle the "millennium bug" or Y2K problem, Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie said today.

"We may have to think of a mechanism that will require companies to give certification that they have done work to make sure their systems are ready for 2000," he told reporters after opening the 20th Asian Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) Council conference here today.

Moggie also reminded all chief executive officers (CEOs) to take the lead in sorting out the Y2K problem in their organisations.

The Y2K refers to the inability of the computer to read the year "00" for the year 2000 as the numerals also represent the year 1900 in the two-digit system.

"If the chief executives are not committed to making sure their network is properly checked, come the year 2000 there will be a problem. What we are saying is don't leave this question purely to your computer programmers.. it has to be at CEO level.. they must look at the issues," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when chairing the sixth meeting of the National Information Technology Council (NITC) in January. had expressed concern over the lack of urgency among small and medium scale companies in the country in tackling the Y2K problem.

On the NITC Y2K Task Force proposal to set up a Y2K bureau and disband the task force, he said he had to check the matter with the NITC.

He said the ministry also needed to discuss with the NITC its role and up to what level the ministry can get involved in addressing the issue and to make sure that there would be no duplication of work between both parties.

"The important thing is that the country, industry and government agencies are fully prepared with the Y2K issues. Some times some organisation take it too lightly... then when the year 2000 comes there will be a problem," he said.

About 140 people including 69 from overseas are attending the five-day conference to discuss issues on ISDN.

On the emphasis that Internet Service Providers (ISP) use the ISDN technology, he said the objective was to give better services in terms of speed and quality.

"ISDN gives better service quality to Internet users," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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