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MSC progressing well, is ahead of schedule: Dr M

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THE development of Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) is showing good progress and is a year ahead of schedule, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"The progress is good... the timing for completion is also good. Actually, it is a year ahead of the planning as the project began earlier than scheduled and will finish early," he told newsmen after visiting the Multimedia University construction site in Cyberjaya, an intelligent city located within the MSC, yesterday.

However, he did not dismiss the fact that the MSC project is slightly affected by the current economic problems in the country.

"It (economic problems) does affect a little bit... but I think we can overcome the situation," he said.

Meanwhile, Multimedia Development Corp executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said about 40 per cent of the local companies which applied for the MSC-status are from the small- and medium-sized industries (SMIs).

"We will continue to encourage the SMIs to participate in the MSC and based on our recent roadshow in Kuala Lumpur and Penang the response has been positive," he added.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir witnessed the signing of five agreements with investments close to RM2 billion between Cyberview Sdn Bhd and three other companies - Telekom Malaysia Sdn Bhd, PNB Property Management Sdn Bhd and a joint venture company, Seseni-Tenaga SPL Sdn Bhd.

Telekom Malaysia alone signed three agreements with Cyberview. The first is for the development of RM1 billion telecommunication infrastructure project within the Cyberjaya Flagship Development Zone.

Under the agreement, Telekom Malaysia will be given exclusive rights to design, plan, install, implement, operate and maintain telecommunication infrastructure including customer access network.

The second and third agreements were for the sale and purchase of land for use in the development of the Multimedia University and Telekom Complex. The purchase price was at RM133.84 million.

Othman, who is also Cyberview's chairman, signed the three agreements on behalf of Cyberview, while Telekom Malaysia was represented by its chief executive officer Datuk Mohamed Said Mohamed.

The fourth agreement was between Cyberview and PNB Property Management Sdn Bhd for the sale and purchase of 8.6ha priced at RM34 million for future development.

The fifth agreement will see an investment of RM800 million spread over 10 years for the development of commercial district cooling system within the Cyberjaya Flagship Zone. It also formalised the joint-venture agreement between Seseni Energy Services Sdn Bhd (Seseni) and Tenaga SPL Sdn Bhd.

Seseni-Tenaga SPL, the joint venture company, has been granted the authority by Cyberview to plan, design, construct, own and operate the district cooling system for the entire zone.

Later, speaking to newsmen, Tenaga SPL's chief executive officer Shaharel Shafiel said the company will build two central district cooling plants to sell chilled water for companies operating within the zone.

The first phase of the project, costing about RM10 million, is expected to commence this month, pending approval from the local authorities.

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