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Commission

MULTIMEDIA COMMISSION GETS SIX MONTHS TO PUT ITSELF IN PLACE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission has six months to draw up its regulations and organisational structure, Energy, Communications and Multimedia Deputy Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy said today.

The commission, whose chairman Datuk Syed Hussein Mohamed had assumed the position effective yesterday, is under the purview of the ministry.

"After six months, by 1 April, the Act (the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998) will be enforced. That is the time frame given," Chan told reporters at Parliament House lobby here.

He was responding to a question on the role of the renamed ministry which became operational from yesterday.

On Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad renamed the Energy, Telecommunications and Posts ministry as the Energy, Communications and Multimedia Ministry with added responsibilities.

Chan said since the commission now assumes a regulatory function on broadcasting matters, it has to draw up broadcasting regulations but in these matters the Information Ministry and his ministry would consult each other.

The Telecommunications Act 1950 and the Broadcasting Act 1981 would be repealed upon adoption of the new Act, he said.

For the time being the Department of Posts would be operating by itself and but would come under the commission eventually, he said.

"It will be under the commission finally. Now we cannot put posts immediately as we still have to amend the Postal Act," he said.

He was hopeful that a bill to amend the Postal Act could be tabled in the next parliamentary sitting in March.

-- BERNAMA

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