

01 APR 1998

Radio

NEW MANAGEMENT TO TAKE OVER CATS RADIO

KUCHING, April 1 (Bernama) -- Sarawak's first private radio station, Cats Radio, is expected to be taken over by a new management in a month or two, its chief executive, Dr Zuraidi Ishak, said today.

Serious negotiations were underway with a local-based company to take over the station, he told reporters, here.

Owned by Kristal Harta Sdn Bhd, the station, established with an investment of about RM7.5 million, began its 24-hour daily operation on Aug 8, 1996 when it was officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Zuraidi said all of the staff would be maintained when the new management takes over.

He denied rumours that Cats Radio would be closed down following the closure of six of its 11 transmitting stations statewide as a temporary measure in view of the economic slowdown.

Yesterday the station broadcast that the transmitting stations in Sri Aman, Sarikei, Lawas, Kapit, Bakun and Singalang would cease operations last night.

Dr Zuraidi said the closure would save the company half of the RM3 million annual maintenance cost.

However, the stations in Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu, Miri and Limbang would continue operation as Cats Radio would like to concentrate on urban areas where there were economically active listeners, he said. -- BERNAMA

CJ JK