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Mahathir-NITC
NITC SETS UP FIVE WORKING GROUPS

CYBERJAYA, March 22 (Bernama) -- The National Information Technology Council (NITC) has today established five working groups to look into thrust areas in information technology.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the working groups were "E-Community", "E-Public Services", "E-Learning", "E-Economy" dan "E-Security and Sovereignty".

"The NITC meeting today discussed six papers on electronic information and the formation of several working groups," he told reporters after chairing the NITC meeting here today.

He said various proposals concerning electronic information system and its effects on the country were also discussed.

The E-Community working group is chaired by Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Leo Moggie, E-Public Services by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, E-Learning by Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, E-Economy by International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and E-Security and Sovereignty by Institute of Strategic and International Studies chairman Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee.

A press release issued after the meeting said E-Community would serve to facilitate communities of interest and conviction to improve the quality of life and communities that are geographically dispersed yet whose members interact electronically.

E-Public Services would facilitate the delivery of public services to citizens and businesses more efficiently and effectively via electronic means.

E-Learning would serve to increase the capability of organisations and individuals to acquire and develop knowledge, skills and values via electronic interaction.

E-Economy is to facilitate and encourage e-commerce and e-business activities which support the development of a knowledge economy while E-Security and Sovereignty serves to enhance the identity and integrity of the nation in an increasingly borderless world.

The release said the NITC had formed a Strategic Thrust Implementation Committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who has also been appointed the deputy chairman of the NITC.

It said the Committee, which had brought together leading strategic thinkers and organisations to drive IT development in Malaysia, would map out a plan to promote IT literacy, fluency and utilisation at all levels.

"The emphasis is on encouraging creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship to enable Malaysians to claim the full benefits of interconnectivity in business, education, community development and public services delivery," the statement added.

-- BERNAMA
MNY THG