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PM on new way of doing business with e-government

Rozana Sani

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The implementation of the electronic government (e-government), already underway, will provide the impetus for change in the way the Government operates and conducts its day-to-day business.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it will eventually facilitate a new way of doing business in the Government by removing bottlenecks at all level of operations.

This new way, which has come about due to the development of new technology - information technology in particular, - is expected to make the Government more efficient, he added.

He was speaking at the signing of a RM35 million contract between the government and a Sapura-led consortium for the development and implementation of a pilot phase of the Prime Minister's Office-Generic Office Environment under the e-government flagship application.

"For example, at the moment there appears to be a problem of spending money because procedures are so tedious, which results in cases where allocations are not fully utilised at the end of the year.

"With the e-government application, the transfer of funds from the Ministry of Finance to the other Ministries, and subsequently to contractors and sub-contractors, will be much faster because they will need only to press a few buttons - which is the new way of doing things," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was hoped that civil servants would learn to operate the complex machines that would be introduced through the implementation of the flagship application and that the private sector would also respond by taking up skills required to make the concept work.

"In that way, our Government will be able to achieve the target of making a success of the Multimedia Super Corridor.

"But more than the MSC, is make a success of IT so as to improve the efficiency of the Government and to serve the people in the way they expect us to serve them in the age of IT," he said.

He also said the award of the contract indicates that the e-government flagship was making progress and timely too, as the Prime Minister's Department would soon be moving to the new administrative capital Putrajaya which is a sophisticated electronic-based project.

The PMO-GOE project is aimed at developing the core components of an office environment using the latest information and multimedia technology.

It comprises several core applications that reflect common work processes in a government department.

This pilot phase will be implemented in Prime Minister's Office, the Chief Secretary's Office, the Malaysian Administration and Modernisation Planning Unit, the Cabinet Division, the Security Division and other related offices.

This will take 11 months to complete and will be used by 450 people.

The three main modules to be built in this phase will enable the users to communicate and collaborate better to ensure a more effective work flow.

The Sapura Consortium comprises Sapura Advanced Systems Sdn Bhd, Hewlett-Packard Sales (M) Sdn Bhd (HPSM), Microsoft Knowledge Capital Centre Sdn Bhd, (MKCC), and EDS MSC Sdn Bhd.

Dr Mahathir witnessed the signing ceremony held at the seminar room of the Prime Minister's Department.

Signing for the Government were Chief Secretary Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Ismail, and Mampu director-general Datuk Dr Muhammad Rais Abdul Karim.

The consortium's representatives were Sapura Group president and chief executive officer Datuk Shahril Shamsuddin, HPSM managing director Badlisham Ghazali, MKCC managing director Benedict Lee Ban Hock and EDS MSC senior vice-president and president of the Asia Pacific region Yang Edward Van-Ching.

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