

25/05/1999

PM to open Cyberjaya, launch NTT centre

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CYBERJAYA, the first in the series of the country's intelligent cities and part of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 8 this year.

The project's infrastructure has been completed a year ahead of schedule and is already in place, Multimedia Development Corp (MDC) executive director and chief operating officer Dr Mohamed Arif Nun said at a press conference in Cyberjaya yesterday.

The opening of Cyberjaya will be held concurrently with the three-day Third International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting.

The Prime Minister will also launch the research and development (R and D) centre of Nippon Telegraph & Telephone (NTT) MSC Sdn Bhd, which would be the second largest R and D facility of Japan-based NTT after the US.

"We are still updating both the programmes and attendees to the IAP meeting. They will be finalised soon," he said.

As at the end of March this year, 139 MSC companies are in operations, with total investment of RM1.19 billion and estimated revenue of RM4 billion. Of the total, 18 companies are located in Cyberjaya.

As at May 1 this year, 279 companies have applied for MSC status, out of which 216 had been approved. Currently, 29 applications are being processed.

Mohd Arif said a majority of the MSC development is self-financed with the exception of Putrajaya which is government-funded.

MDC senior manager for corporate communication Kamil Ahmad Othman said Cyberjaya's infrastructure development, including the development of residential and enterprise park, is spearheaded by Syarikat Setia Haruman Sdn Bhd.

Setia Haruman is a consortium of four companies, namely, Renong Bhd, Landmarks Bhd, Country Heights Holding Bhd and Emkay Group of Companies. A total of RM2.5 billion will be invested for infrastructure development, he said.

As for telecommunications services, Telekom Malaysia Bhd general manager for MSC/Mega Projects Datuk Mohd Taib Hassan said Telekom has committed a total of RM200 million up to June this year to implement permanent facilities for MSC companies operating in Cyberjaya.

"We have already provided those who are currently operating in Cyberjaya with the interim facilities. By June this year, all system will be ready," he said, adding that a total of RM2.2 billion has been allocated for the period between the year 1998 and 2000.

Mohd Arif, asked whether investors have expressed their concerns over the country's economic and political situation, said: "No ... These are long-term investors and they are more interested towards the action."

He said when MDC promoted the MSC in Frankfurt recently, the MDC received queries from those who were interested in the cost of business and benefits of investing in the MSC.

"Such development showed that the current economic situation and government policies have not affected the MSC development," he said.

He said MDC will also be doing joint promotions with the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority to further promote MSC.

Other events lined up by MDC following the official opening of the country's intelligent garden city include the launchings of Smart Labs of Sekolah Menengah Dengkil and Sekolah Rendah Dengkil (June 29), MSC Central

Incubator (July 1), Telekom Malaysia Bhd's Cyberjaya telecommunications exchange (July 3) and Multimedia University (July 9).

(END)