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Mahathir-Entertainment

SITE FOR ENTERTAINMENT VILLAGE IN MSC IDENTIFIED

CYBERJAYA, July 10 (Bernama) -- An area measuring 480 hectares has been identified as the site for the entertainment village in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The land is located adjacent to Cyberjaya (one of the twin intelligent cities of MSC) and not far from Dengkil, Sepang, he told a press conference at the end of the third MSC International Advisory Panel (IAP) members' meeting.

Twelve IAP members and 13 of their representatives attended the three-day meeting.

Dr Mahathir said the setting up of the entertainment village was in line with the overall activities of the MSC as the creation of multimedia content in the area could be utilised by the movie studio, to be located in the village.

"Knowledge workers (from the entertainment village) could undertake various activities and would interact with universities and research labs here," he said.

The formation of the village was announced by Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn Bhd (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah on the first day of the meeting. MDC is the developer and promoter of MSC.

Apart from the studio, the village would house a theme park, a laboratory and a holiday resort.

Construction is expected to commence before the end of the year.

Speaking on the one-to-one meeting he had with IAP members yesterday and today, Dr Mahathir said they had all expressed their commitment to invest and reinvest in the multimedia hub project.

Asked whether the MSC would revise its target since it had achieved rapid progress and exceeded its deadline in attracting companies into the area, he said: "I think we should pick up from here."

To date, some 225 companies have obtained the coveted MSC status from 285 that had applied.

There are currently 32 world class web shapers -- companies which provide a content for the web -- with MSC status, exceeding the original target of 50 by the year 2003.

Dr Mahathir said some IAP members were amazed with the development of the infrastructure within three years as in the Silicon Valley it took 30 years.

Dr Mahathir said the IAP members also threw some ideas on the Electronic-Commerce (E-Commerce) masterplan during the one-to-one meetings.

"They gave some ideas what it would do for the country, what we can expect and how E-Commerce will make certain laws inapplicable,"

On cyberlaws, Dr Mahathir said the IAP members felt that Malaysia was quite advanced but that there was a need to revise certain aspects.

He added that with the fast speed at which multimedia technology was moving, the cyberlaws that were passed today would be obsolete in the future.

Dr Mahathir was also asked on the possibility of Singapore taking legal action against Malaysia to resolve the CLOB issue, and his response was: "We will see what happens."

Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, in an interview with

Financial Times, did not dismiss the possibility of taking legal action to end the impasse over the frozen Malaysian shares formerly traded on the island republic's Central Limit Order Book International.

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