

10 JUL 1999

IAP-ENTERTAINMENT VILLAGE

SITE FOR ENTERTAINMENT VILLAGE IDENTIFIED, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

CYBERJAYA, July 10 (Bernama) -- A land measuring 480 hectares (1,200 acres) has been identified to site the entertainment village in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said.

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 IAP members meeting here today.

A total of 12 IAP (International Advisory Panel) members and 13 of their representatives attended the three-day meeting.

Dr Mahathir said the setting up of the entertainment village was relevant 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 first announced by Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn Bhd (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah at 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 among other things.

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

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 which have applied.

There are currently 32 world class web shapers -- companies which provide content for the web -- who have obtained MSC status which has exceeded the original target of 50 by the year 2003.

To some IAP members, the speed taken to develop the infrastructure within three years was amazing as it took 30 years for the Silicon Valley to do so, he said.

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

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

For the cyberlaws, Dr Mahathir said the IAP members felt that Malaysia was quite advance compared to other countries although they expressed the 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.

On the possibility that Singapore would take legal action against Malaysia to resolve the CLOB issue, Dr Mahathir said: "We will see what happens."

In an interview with the Financial Times, Singapore's Deputy Prime

Minister Brig. Gen. Lee Hsien Loong 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 Internatinoal.--BERNAMA

TM MR