

12/08/2000

70,000 forms to contributors

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Pos Malaysia Bhd has issued over 70,000 application forms since July 1 to Employees Provident Fund contributors wishing to withdraw from their EPF savings to buy computers, its executive chairman Tan Sri Zainol Mahmood said today.

Besides helping in completing the forms, he said, Pos Malaysia also offered computer package deals valued at RM2,999 and RM3,499 which was 12 to 15 per cent cheaper than market prices.

Speaking after the launch of the Government's "One Home One Computer" campaign, he said, with transport hubs at every district, customers could be rest assured that computers would be delivered to them after a week of submitting payment.

However, those staying in Sabah and Sarawak may have to wait an additional week for the computers.

Its business partner, Odasaja (M) Sdn Bhd, projects that about 120,000 computers will be bought this year.

The 10-month-old Odasaja is providing technical expertise, advertising and marketing for the computer ownership programme, its chief executive officer Maj (R) Ismail Ahmad said.

Since July 1, EPF contributors with children, aged 10 and above, are allowed to withdraw their EPF savings of up to RM3,500 to purchase a personal computer.

In a message read out during today's launch, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called urged all State Governments, government and corporate agencies, associations and community leaders to assist and support the campaign by encouraging and providing facilities for acquiring computers.

In congratulating EPF and Pos Malaysia for assisting contributors to own computers, he hoped both organisations would work together to ensure that savings withdrawn would be used to buy computers and not misused.

The campaign, which encourages the widespread use of computer and the Internet among Malaysians, aims to create an IT-literate society which would enjoy a better quality of life.

Speaking at the launch today, Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie said that Pos Malaysia should use its network of offices to encourage more people to acquire and use computers.

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