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E-Village beginning of new era, says Dr M

Patvinder Singh

CYBERJAYA, Fri. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Malaysia was set to gain new knowledge and the necessary technical know-how of the "wonderful new electronic world of entertainment" with the opening of the E-Village.

The Prime Minister said for Malaysia, the E-village was one of the more momentous occasions to signify the beginning of an exciting new entertainment era.

"The development of E-Village and particularly the virtual and Sound Studios clearly demonstrate our ability to keep up with, if not ahead, of a burgeoning IT industry and growing market," Dr Mahathir said when he officially launched the E-Village.

He said with the E-Village, Malaysians would witness a growth of opportunities, both social and economic, the transforming of society and the building of new creative skills and professions.

Students, he said, would embark on new courses and training related to IT and its "myriad applications". New talents, he said, would be born.

"The learning curves of all will change as we immerse ourselves in managing IT potentialities. Truly the vision to establish an entertainment centre goes beyond mere entertaining.

"It is also going to help in developing the skills and capacities to handle the modern and fast changing technologies involved in entertainment in the Information Age."

The Prime Minister expressed optimism that with the development of E-Village, Malaysians would set themselves the right targets and goals that would not only liberate the country as an industrialised nation, but enlarge the boundaries to test and challenge themselves into achieving more.

He said the studios were naturally the point of entry for Malaysia as a developing country and like the Multimedia Super Corridor in the larger context, it would be the engine of growth for the E-Village.

"A whole new infrastructure will emerge and the foundation of hi-tech entertainment will be laid from which we can further develop and generate revenue or earnings," he said.

Dr Mahathir hoped the E-Village would be the springboard for attracting international film producers and providers of entertainment, adding that there was new resurgence of film-making.

Malaysia, he added, had ventured into the industry at the most opportune time.

He said film makers were constantly on the look out for producing films and works of art in a better and more international environment.

"Through E-Village we can provide competitive facilities and locations that accurately represent cultural depictions of Asia in all its diversity and its colourful people," Dr Mahathir said.

The local film industry, he said, would also benefit from E-Village as its standards would improve and become comparable to those produced at other entertainment centres.

"I look forward to the day when our home-grown films and other international productions carry the credit mention of having being produced in 'E-Village Studios Malaysia'," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir ended his speech saying: "...STANDBY... ACTION!"

And the show began...

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