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INTERNET-SUBSCRIBER
12.6 MLN MALAYSIANS TO BE ON-LINE BY 2004

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Information minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob says a recent study on Internet usage estimated that about 2.6 million Malaysians would be on-line by the year 2004.

He said the Malaysian Internet Service Provider market started with an estimated 64,000 users in 1996 but this had risen significantly in the last two years.

Last year, there were 770,000 users and the number this year was expected to touch more than one million, he said at the launch of TIME dotNet Bhd, an Internet Service Provider (ISP) which is part of the TIME group.

"Without doubt, this is an interesting time for the ISP market which would benefit Malaysians at large in more ways than one," he said.

On the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), Khalil said it represented a new paradigm in creating value for the Information Age.

"It is not just a physical location or just another industrial or technology park nor is it a Far Eastern clone of the Sillicon Valley," he stressed.

The corridor is envisioned to be a hi-tech test-bed that would allow companies to explore multimedia technologies without limitations, he said.

Khalil said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wanted MSC to be a global centre for applications and testing of leading-edge I.T. advances and discoveries. -- BERNAMA

MSL SHY