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Law to protect electronic info

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Government intends to introduce laws to protect private information stored electronically in order to protect the public from the threat of unlawful exposure.

Solicitor-General Datuk Heliliah Mohd Yusof said this was necessary to protect the people from becoming victims of irresponsible parties.

She said several countries like the United States and Britain had already introduced such laws and Canada even had a Commissioner for the Protection of Information.

However, Heliliah declined to reveal further details about the proposed law as it was still being studied by the Government.

"But the time has come for the Government to consider having effective laws as a preventive measure to preserve the integrity of private information," she told reporters after launching the Multimedia Super Corridor International Cyberlaws Conference today.

Also present was Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

Heliliah said if data was stored in an electronic filing system, there was a possibility that others with technical expertise would be able to access the information.

Earlier, in a dialogue session with conference participants, Heliliah expressed her sadness over the recent exposure of private information involving those who were infected by diseases.

"Recently, we have seen incidents involving the exposure of identities in certain cases, like the housewife who received a transfusion of blood tainted with the HIV virus in Jitra.

"In that case, I agree with Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir (president of the Malaysian AIDS Council) that the patient's identity should not have been revealed."

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