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Mahathir-MSK

MSK HAS PROGRESSED AHEAD OF TARGET- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- The Multimedia Super Corridor (MSK) has progressed far ahead of the target set for it, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We see a bright future for information technology in Malaysia and we are sure the MSK will be a success," he said when launching the NTT MSK Sdn Bhd's Arcnet services.

Foreign companies would find the MSK a useful centre to conduct research and operate from as well for testing their products, he said.

Arcnet, a trademark of NTT MSK, was locally developed in Cyberjaya and offered a full range of internet access services and electronic business solutions to multinational corporations, small and medium enterprises as well as individuals.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia owed a lot to NTT Communications Corp (the parent company of NTT MSK) which was one of the strongest supporters of the MSK project.

NTT Communications was among the early birds that came to the MSK to set up its office as well as its research and development centre in Cyberjaya.

These gestures and actions of NTT had encouraged other world renowned companies to come to Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said big companies which had the ability to do research must come up with solutions that could make it easier for businesses to apply information technology.

"We are seeing more and more of these and in Malaysia we have given out licences for this kind of solution providers," he said.

The Prime Minister said the NTT was among the first foreign companies to receive this licence and the development of Arcnet would help Malaysian businesses to do much better.

He said although Internet usage in Malaysia was not big enough at the moment, the goals were quite high - doubling almost every year.

Dr Mahathir said that in 1996 there were 90,000 Internet users in Malaysia but today this figure had grown to over one million.

"I am quite sure with this rate of growth, any company providing the required services will be able to reap a rich harvest," he added.

Speaking at a press conference later, Dr Mahathir said there were some spin offs emanating from the MSK as there were some local companies that had contributed to the development of information technology usage.

"They have also developed systems that can be applied in Malaysia," he added.

At present there were many incubators in the MSK which had succeeded in inventing a variety of softwares and solutions including those which were suitable for business applications.

-- BERNAMA

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