

17/06/2000

MSC moving on schedule with 34 corporations on board

V. Ramanan; V. Shankar

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the Multimedia Super Corridor is ahead of schedule in attracting 34 multinational corporations so far.

He said the Multimedia Development Corporation had targeted to attract 50 multinational corporations and 500 smaller companies to invest in the MSC by 2003.

"I am happy with the achievement so far. MSC has attracted 34 big corporations and 334 smaller companies although not all are located in Cyberjaya," he said after launching the Motorola Multimedia Software Centre in Cyberjaya.

However, he is confident that all the companies which have obtained the MSC status will be relocated in Cyberjaya once the infrastructure has been developed.

Asked if other parties have shown interest in joining MSC's International Advisory Panel, Dr Mahathir said many have, and their presence in the IAP would be useful as they could contribute ideas and advice to guide Malaysia on developing the MSC further.

The latest to be appointed to the panel is Don Tapscott, a Canadian consultant and author.

He is widely regarded as an authority on the implications of Information Technology for business, government and society.

On his recent visit to Japan, Dr Mahathir reiterated that he had invited all Japanese firms involved in Information Technology to invest in the MSC. Among those which have expressed interest are Sumitomo Corporation and Softbank.

On Khazanah Nasional Bhd's intention to sell 15 to 20 per cent of its stake in Telekom Malaysia to Japan's Nippon Telephone and Telegraph, he hoped that the deal would be closed by year-end.

"We don't mind NTT acquiring a small stake in Telekom," he added.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said despite the recent economic slowdown the MSC was able to attract companies to invest in the MSC.

"In the MSC, there will be different kinds of information technology-related activities as well as production of software, which has unlimited application potential.

"There is a lot more that can be done with software applications. They enable people to do things which previously required much skill," he added.

(END)