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SAPURA-IT

SAPURA CONTRIBUTES RM2 MLN TO IT RESEARCH CHAIRS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Bernama) -- Sapura Group, which celebrates its 25th anniversary and the launch of a new corporate building by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today, announced a contribution of RM2 million for two technology research chairs at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM).

The group will contribute RM1 million each to the Sapura Chair for Information Technology (IT) and the Sapura Chair for the Administration of Technology Policy at the institute of higher learning, said Sapura Group president and chief executive officer Datuk Shahril Shamsuddin tonight.

Speaking at the launch of "Bangunan Sapura @ Mines" in Seri Kembangan near here, Shahril said the Sapura Chair for Information Technology will be used to energise the development of innovation and creativity in IT through scholarships, research and product development.

The second chair will serve to seed and nurture leadership in the administration and deployment of national technology policies which are applicable to all sectors of the economy, he added.

Shahril said the contribution will be more than repaid when the university fulfills the brain power need of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

"Our technological future lies in populating the MSC with indigenous talent of top class IT compacts and professionals," he added.

He also said that the economic success and growth had produced two challenges, namely technology that concealed ideology which has origin in cultures that were in many ways alien to Malaysians, and trade which is free of ethical boundary.

"The first challenge requires us to examine the mental models that spawned this technologies of universal interest, and after understanding them, we need to ensure that our indigenous work habits, ethics and structures are aligned to make the best use of such technology for sustainable development," he said.

The second challenge requires lateral thinking.

"If we don't, the practise of trade without ethics and real value proposition will overwhelm us," he added.

Sapura Group, which was incorporated in 1975 has three subsidiaries, Sapura Telecommunications Bhd, Sapura Motors Bhd and Uniphone Telecommunications Bhd, all of which are listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE).

The group has 2,200 employees with offices abroad, including in Singapore, Thailand, Pakistan, China and the Philippines. -- BERNAMA

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