

PM confident IT dream will be realised

By ZULKIFLI ABD RAHMAN

CYBERJAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident the Malaysian dream of becoming a premier information technology centre will be realised and gave an assurance that the Government will continue to support the local multimedia industry.

The Prime Minister said many international corporations have shown interest in the MultiMedia Super Corridor (MSC) and want to invest in it.

He said this in his address after witnessing the signing of two agreements involving Ku-

lim-based semiconductor company AIC Corporation Bhd at the Multimedia University (UMM) here yesterday.

The first was between AIC Corp and the university and the other between the company and its business partners, National Semiconductor International B.V. and Klettern Pte Ltd.

Those present included the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who is the university's chancellor, UMM President Prof Dr Ghauth Jasmon and Energy and Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk

Amar Leo Moggie.

Dr Mahathir said that companies in the MSC would need knowledge-based workers, especially in the field of IT, and the location of the university there would enable the students to interact and collaborate with the business corporations.

"Graduates in IT are now much sought-after by these companies.

"I'm sure that the dream of making Malaysia a premier IT centre will be realised," he said.

Dr Mahathir said a lot of construction work could be seen in and around Cyberjaya,

which reflected the interest of local and foreign companies to invest in the MSC.

He said multimedia companies were able to offer higher pay, but he urged the university staff to resist the temptation to work with them.

"Your services are much needed to teach and produce IT-savvy graduates in the country," he added.

Dr Mahathir later took a virtual tour of the AIC Corp's second integrated circuit plant in Kulim.

He then attended an hour-long closed-door dialogue session with the university students.