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Backing for proposal on multilingual computing initiatives

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was receptive to the idea of setting up multilingual computing initiatives (MLCI) to develop computing for major languages in the country.

He said there ought to be a steering committee to look into the development of language-based computing for Bahasa Malaysia, English, Chinese and Tamil.

"The current information communications technology development suggests that Malaysia should extend the mastery of these languages in the Internet and for computing in general."

Dr Mahathir said this when opening the Fourth International Conference on Tamil language Internet at the Putra World Trade Centre.

About 800 delegates are attending the three-day conference, organised by the MIC and International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil.

Malaysia was home to some of the most widely spoken languages in the world and had a competitive advantage in the economy.

Earlier, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu proposed that the Multimedia Development Corporation, embark on a scheme to unearth ICT talents within the Indian community.

"Such a move could initiate bilateral working relationships with other Tamil communities around the world.

"Malaysia is one of the world's leading Tamil software producers and through this scheme, we can discover more talents, emphasising on Tamil software."

There are three world-class Tamil software produced by Malaysia.

"I estimate that more than one million people worldwide are currently using Malaysian-made Tamil software and 75 million Tamils worldwide know Malaysia for its Tamil software."

The MIC had launched a nationwide campaign, Net-for-life, to instil Internet values among Malaysians.

He hoped the conference would help establish communication links with all schools, companies and various sections of society.

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