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E-COMMERCE-DISMAL

E-COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT DISMAL - MDC CHIEF

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28 (Bernama) -- The Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said today the development of electronic commerce (e-commerce) in Malaysia has been dismal.

"The (rate of e-commerce take-up) is slow and the situation is critical among the banking, finance, insurance, manufacturing and business-to-business (B2B) sectors," he told reporters after presenting a keynote address at the World Economic Development Congress here today.

His presentation was on e-commerce challenges and opportunities in Malaysia.

He added that the Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had expressed his concern over the readiness of relevant sectors and industries to practice e-commerce.

"If we are not ready, we are swallowed," he said.

He said Bank Negara Malaysia is encouraging the development of e-commerce while the MDC is playing its part in meeting the association of bankers.

There are a few banks like the Malayan Banking group (Maybank) and Southern Bank Bhd which provide e-banking services and facilities.

Dr Othman said by 2003 government tenders will go online. The process of e-procurement will allow tenders (contract bids) to be called for and submitted online," he added.

Dr Othman said that by 2003-2004, the country can actually see phenomenal changes in e-commerce.

He added that, by 2004-2005, the US will be leading in e-commerce, with the Asia Pacific in second place and Western Europe in third.

He said that to date, 516 companies have been given the status of Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) entities.

"We expected that, by 2003, we would have 500 MSC-status companies but we have already passed the figure in 2001; it is a remarkable achievement," he added.

When asked about the "code of conduct in Cyberlaw" law, he said that MDC is monitoring the Australian code.

"We are not looking at Singapore or China, because these countries practise direct censorship," he added. -- BERNAMA

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