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Government to curb hacking

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Government is making every effort to ensure that the Multimedia Super Corridor, which seeks to put the country into the digital era, will be foolproof, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the Government would step up security to prevent hacking of the computer systems and websites.

"Of course, there are some doubts about the security of the websites and Internet but we will try our best to provide the best protection.

"We will try our best to prevent such things (hacking) from happening but we don't know whether we will succeed. These people (hackers) are clever but they use their intelligence and skills for the wrong reasons. They are capable of hacking the system we use," he said, when asked about the two websites which were hacked on Saturday.

The two websites hacked were [www.parlimen.gov.my](http://www.parlimen.gov.my) and [www.utm.my](http://www.utm.my).

Dr Mahathir said the Government gave these people an opportunity to learn. "But after learning, they use the knowledge to fight against the principles that they were supposed to be fighting for.

"By doing so, they are going against the Government. They are censoring other people's news. When the Government wanted to censor news in the newspaper, these people got angry and accused us of controlling the Press.

"But they are the ones who are controlling the Press by not allowing the public to read news from other sources. They are censoring other people's news."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters at the People's Progressive Party's New Year open house at the Putra World Trade Centre.

On other matters, Dr Mahathir said the Government would not retrench staff following the buy-over of Malaysia Airlines shares from Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli.

"One of the conditions of privatisation in Malaysia is not to retrench workers. The staff should be given the option."

On the taking over of the light rail transit system in the city, Dr Mahathir said it had to be done because the people wanted cheap transportation but the companies operating the LRT could not provide it due to the high cost.

"Even with the Government subsidising them, they could not make profit.

"There are only two solutions to this problem. Either the companies raise the fare, for which the Opposition will protest and demonstrate, or for the Government to take over.

"There will be a little financial problem when the Government takes over but we have to do it to restructure the public transportation system."

He said if the Opposition feels they could reduce fares and at the same time subsidise the cost, the Government would hand over the operation of the public transportation to them.

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