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NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY TO TAKE OFF BY YEAR-END

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- The National Space Agency will be ready and operational in another two to three months, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding said today.

"The Public Service Department had given the green light for the intake of staff and are now sending out offer letters...the agency should be operational in another two to three months," he told newsmen at his office here, today.

He said the ministry had yet to identify who would be heading the Centre but all other positions were currently being filled up.

The Agency would be stationed at the National Planetarium but would at the initial stages be under the Ministry.

On the launch of Malaysia's third satellite, announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Uganda, Monday, he said this was a positive development where developing countries would benefit from using the satellite.

"We are prepared to share the satellite with others in the region, in fact, we have had requests from Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore to use our existing satellites," he added.

Dr Mahathir had said that the satellite would be placed over Africa for Asian region to be better connected with their African counterparts in an effort to foster closer relations between the two regions.

-- BERNAMA

SR AHH AO