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REACTION--NASCOM

PAY HIKE AND ALLOWANCE WILL INCREASE COMPUTER PURCHASE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- The computer market in the country is expected to continue to increase in view of the pay hike and bonuses for the public sector and increase in allowances for medical officers announced in the 2002 Budget, Perbadanan Komputer Nasional Bhd (NASCOM) said here today.

Its chief executive officer Zulkifli Amin Mamat said that this time, the budget focused more on information technology (IT) entrepreneurs with the additional allocation for Integrated Application, Smart School, and the enhancement of computerisation in the government sector and schools.

With this allocation for e-commerce, it could create a good electronic infrastructure for local entrepreneurs, who previously were reluctant to utilise web sites due to the high costs, he said in a statement here today.

"With such a budget, there will be more e-commerce companies in Malaysia which can speed up their financial affairs and at the same time increase such a technology in Malaysia," he said.

In the 2002 Budget presented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Dewan Rakyat here today, the government has allocated RM112.7 million to implement the Electronic Government, RM72.3 million for Smart Schools, RM20 million for Telemedicine, RM86.3 million for Smart Card and RM9.5 million for Integrated Application. -- BERNAMA

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