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Mahathir-Card

PM ENVISAGES MORE SMART CARD APPLICATIONS IN FUTURE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Bernama) -- The number of applications to be included in the smart card could be increased in future, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The smart card currently carries identity card and passport information, driving licence and e-cash applications.

"We can increase the number of applications. So it is continuous... you don't have to carry either cards or even money," he said when approached by reporters on the government's preparedness to fully implement the system.

Earlier he presented the Proton World International smart card to Iris Technology Malaysia and the National Registration Department at Iris' premises at the Technology Park Malaysia in Bukit Jalil, here.

The credit card-sized smart card, which comes with embedded microchip, enables people to carry a single card with multiple usage.

In April, Malaysia created world history by being the first nation to launch a Government Multi-Purpose Card, initially incorporating the four applications.

Dr Mahathir reminded government agencies and departments to be equipped with the necessary equipment in order to be fully prepared to implement the smart card system.

Asked whether there was any time frame for Malaysians to change their identity cards for smart cards, he replied: "We will have to do it by stages ... can't do it all together because we have to buy the necessary equipment."

-- BERNAMA

RV AHH RYN