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Three biotechnology R&D centres by year-end

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Government is expected to build three research and development institutes to serve as a catalyst in the country's push into the field of biotechnology.

Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding said this after opening the National Natural Product Convention 2001 at the Putra World Trade Centre today.

The institutes will focus on research and development in genomics and molecular biology, pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals and agroforestry, and situated in Biovalley Malaysia.

Housed in the Multimedia Super Corridor, BioValley Malaysia is a cluster of biotechnology industries and supporting services.

Details of the three institutes would be announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad by year-end. Besides the institutes, BioValley will also have its own business development directorate to identify innovations with commercial potential.

Law also added, his ministry would set up a technical committee and secretariat under the Cabinet Committee on Biotechnology and Biodiversity Policies, to be headed by the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

It will serve as a ministerial anchor point.

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