

■ **Initiative:** Move to bridge digital divide

# DRB-HICOM in PC scheme with TM Net

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MORE Malaysians can embrace the digital age by buying a personal computer (PC) with a full package of computing solutions for less than RM2,000 each. And they can pay for it at less than RM50 a month.

To help bridge the digital divide in the country, DRB-HICOM Bhd's information technology outfit DRB-HICOM Information Technologies (DH Info) has teamed up with Telekom Malaysia's TM Net Sdn Bhd, among others, to offer affordable PCs running on customised Linux Operating System.

"DH Info will provide competitively-priced PCs running on Linux OS where the hardware and software package will cost less than RM2,000," said its chairman Datuk Yatina Yahaya.

TM Net will provide a pre-connected Internet account, enabling buyers of the PCs to access the World Wide Web with ease using an auto dialler set-up. It will also provide other Internet-related value-added services to complement the access.

"Buyers will get the first 50 hours of Internet use for free," TM Net chief executive officer

Baharum Salleh said after DH Info and TM Net signed the strategic alliance yesterday.

The exact price and other details, such as loan schemes, will be announced at the launch of the programme by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 24 at the Mid Valley Megamall in Kuala

Lumpur. Sales of the PCs will start on July 25.

Yatina said DH Info is also discussing with three financial institutions the option of attractive loan packages with easy repayment schemes of less than RM50 a month, which can be deducted from the purchaser's salary.

"This initiative was prompted by the Prime Minister's call for a more computer-literate society. By offering PCs priced below RM2,000, we feel that we will be one step closer to meeting his vision of One Home, One Computer," DRB-HICOM chairman Tan Sri Mohd Saleh Sulong said.