

05 SEPT 2002
Mahathir-MSC
PM CONFIRMS DR OTHMAN HAS STEPPED DOWN

CYBERJAYA, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today confirmed that Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah has stepped down as Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman and chief executive officer due to health reasons.

"He is no longer the executive chairman but he is still with the MDC," he said when met by reporters at the end of the first day of the sixth meeting of the International Advisory Panel of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC-IAP), here.

Dr Mahathir said Dr Othman's "burden will be reduced" and that somebody else would be appointed in his place.

When asked who the person would be, the Prime Minister said this would be announced later.

Queried on the reason given by Dr Othman to step down, Dr Mahathir said: "He is not well."

The MDC is the body responsible for overseeing the progress of the MSC, a 750sq km area south of Kuala Lumpur which has been designated as the hub for the development of multimedia services and products.

Earlier today, Dr Othman told reporters that he would be serving the MDC in a non-executive capacity.

On the outcome of today's meeting, Dr Mahathir said the MSC-IAP participants discussed six topics -- how to narrow the digital divide, post dot com entrepreneurship, open source system, cyber-security and cyber-crime, combating harmful content on the internet and information superiority.

"I find that the views aired by the IAP members are very useful for us. They gave their views, advice and various ideas which will help us develop the MSC," he said.

The three-day meeting is being attended by 14 IAP members and 12 representatives comprising key players of the global information and communication technology industry.

It ends on Saturday.

-- BERNAMA

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