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MAHATHIR-MSK

DR OTHMAN NO LONGER MDC EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, CONFIRMS MAHATHIR

CYBERJAYA, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today confirmed that Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah has stepped down as Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) 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 that Dr Othman's "burden will be reduced" and that somebody else would be appointed in his place.

When asked who that person would be, the prime minister said this would be announced later. Queried on the reasons given by Dr Othman to step down, Dr Mahathir said: "He is not well."

The MDC is the body responsible to oversee the progress of the MSC, a 750 sq km area south of the capital city 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 that the MSC-IAP participants discussed six topics namely how to narrow the digital divide, post dot com entrepreneurship, open source system, cyber-security and cyber-crime, combatting harmful content on the Internet and information superiority.

"The views put forward by the IAP members were very useful to us. They gave their opinions and advise, as well as various ideas which can help us develop the MSC further," 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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