

25/07/2002

PM: Komnas Twenty20 may be purchased under EPF scheme

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The national personal computer, Komnas Twenty20, may be included in the Employees' Provident Fund's computer scheme once the freeze on withdrawals is lifted.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that this was a possibility given the pricing of the computer.

"Since the price is low and our objective is to have one computer in one home, it could be looked into," the Prime Minister said when asked if Komnas Twenty20 could be purchased under the EPF scheme.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the computer at the Mid-Valley Megamall here.

The scheme has been frozen after misuse of funds withdrawn for purported computer purchases.

"The EPF has stopped the scheme for computers for the time being because there was a lot of hanky-panky.

"I hope when people withdraw the money they will use it to buy computers and not use it for something else. I don't know how silly people can get. It is their money. If they withdraw RM3,000 they get only RM2,000 and another RM1,000 goes to someone else."

To a question on rumours that the Finance Ministry and the Energy, Communications and Multimedia Ministry were going to take over Mimos, he said this was not true.

"As far as I am concerned, they are doing a good job. We have asked some consultants to look into their organisation because we want to know certain things. It is all right."

Asked how he used the Internet, he said he did not use it but encouraged others to do so.

"I get a lot of mail but I don't have the time to read them. I am still an old-fashioned man who still writes long-hand and I can't even type. But I encourage people to use the Internet," he said.