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MDC executive chairman steps down from posts

CYBERJAYA, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) executive chairman and chief executive Tan Sri Othman Yeop Abdullah has stepped down due to health reasons.

"He is no longer the executive chairman but is still with the MDC. His burden will be reduced and somebody else will be appointed in his place," he said at the end of the first day meeting of the Sixth International Advisory Panel meeting at Cyberview Lodge.

The Prime Minister was asked to confirm reports that Othman had relinquished his posts in MDC effective Sept 1. On Othman's successor, the Prime Minister quipped: "I will inform you later."

On the outcome of the meeting, Dr Mahathir, who is International Advisory Panel chairman, said the 26 members and representatives discussed six topics that could help bring further progress to the MSC.

The topics were on role of IT companies in supporting the emerging economies towards narrowing the digital gap, post dot com entrepreneurship, open source system, information security homeland and cybersecurity, information superiority and combating harmful Internet content. "The members and representatives have given valuable input and new ideas to help the MSC progress further."

Othman today confirmed he was relinquishing both posts for health reasons.

Approached by reporters at the sidelines of the panel meeting Othman, who was appointed to head the MSC in Sept 1, 1996, said he would be assuming the post of non-executive chairman.

Sources said MDC senior vice-president Datuk Dr Mohamed Arif Nun has been appointed as acting chief executive.

Before his stint at the MDC, Othman has served in various positions in the civil service, notably as the Deputy Secretary-General in the Education Ministry, Secretary-General in the Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Ministry and Secretary-General in the Primary Industries Ministry.

He is a holder of a Bachelors degree in Management from Universiti Malaya, a Masters degree in Management from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Doctorate degree in Management from University of California. (Irvine).