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e-PEROLEHAN-GOVT

TOWARDS E-PEROLEHAN ENABLED GOVT PROCUREMENT CENTRES

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- The Ministry of Finance is stepping up efforts to ensure all government procurement centres or buying agencies are ePerolehan-enabled, targeting 520 centres in the Klang Valley alone within the next few months.

This is part of an aggressive bid to seal Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's vision of making the Malaysian Government the world's first to trade via an online electronic marketplace.

The Prime Minister had said this in his speech during the 2003 budget presentation.

"Currently 100 procurement centres or PTJs (Pusat Tanggungjawab) are already ePerolehan-enabled and with another 400 or so to be enabled by the end of the year, the Klang Valley will officially spearhead the implementation of our Government's nationwide electronic procurement system," Datuk Mohd Salleh Masduki, chief executive of Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd, said today.

"Ultimately this means that the Government will only purchase from suppliers who have displayed their goods and services in the ePerolehan system," he said in a statement here today.

ePerolehan is the nation's unique state-of-the-art electronic procurement system for Government-to-Business (G2B) exchanges that is set to streamline processes and procedures for increased efficiency and productivity.

Awarded to Commerce Dot Com in 1999, ePerolehan is developed, implemented and managed by the company in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance.

The joint initiative has enabled the Government and its suppliers to do online transactions via the Internet.

With ePerolehan, government buyers can now make more accurate procurement decisions, with immediate access to the latest product and pricing information available on-line thereby making smart purchases instantly, Mohd Salleh said.

In addition, by having better management of purchases and payments, PTJs nationwide will be able to track or audit procurement processes and transactions at every step of the way.

This is set to leapfrog the country's transformation to the K-Economy and promote the widespread adoption of e-Commerce in Malaysia, Mohd Salleh said.

Government suppliers in turn will be able to derive significant benefits of increased revenue opportunities with access to a wider base of buyers both international and local.

As business operations become automated with ePerolehan, suppliers would have simplified end-to-end processes and reduced administrative work resulting in immense savings in operational costs amidst shorter turnaround periods.

Mohd Salleh also called on all Government suppliers who have registered with ePerolehan, to get enabled with the system in order to avoid losing out.

"Getting enabled is a simple process whereby suppliers are only requested to spend RM300 for a minimum of one ePerolehan smart card and an ePerolehan smart card reader," he said.

For the convenience of all ePerolehan users, eP Shoppes and eP Service

Points have now been established in various strategic locations around the country to ease the enablement process.

Details can be obtained at www.eperolehan.com.my.

These centres are especially helpful for those who have not purchased the necessary infrastructure to connect to the system and they also provide guidance for the less technology-savvy suppliers.

Government suppliers could also take advantage of the special current offer for complimentary data entry services in the ePerolehan electronic catalogue for up to 10 items where the normal cost to create each item is RM15.

Moving forward, ePerolehan is on schedule to complete its final implementation of its system when the Quotation and Tender procurement modules "go live" by the end of 2002.

Beginning next year, all suppliers interested in participating in Government tenders will be required to submit quotations, obtain tender documents and submit tender bids online.

ePerolehan is a leading e-Government Flagship Application project developed under the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) initiative. Further information on ePerolehan can be obtained from its website, www.eperolehan.com.my. -- BERNAMA

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