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## Cellular service providers told to broaden coverage

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Cellular phone service providers should heed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to broaden their service coverage, said Energy, Communication and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie.

It is also time these providers meet consumers' demand for wider coverage as mobile phones have now become a necessity, he said.

"We hope the prime minister's public comment on this matter will help push compa-

nies to respond quickly to meet the expectations of consumers," he told reporters after launching Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Bhd's portal ([www.printnasiona.com.my](http://www.printnasiona.com.my)).

He was asked to comment on Mahathir's statement urging cellular phone service providers to improve their service coverage.

Moggie said there should not be any problems for companies to fulfil this need as the economic situation has improved.

"In the past, some of these companies suffered financial worries. Now that it (financial crisis) is over and we see an improvement in the economic scene, the capex (capital expenditure) requirement is less than two years ago."

Moggie reminded telcos not to look at the issue in a competitive manner.

"They can compete in quality of service," he said.

He also called on cellular phone operators to step up on domestic roaming arrangements.