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ABDULLAH-SOFTWARE

GOVERNMENT MAY CONSIDER BECOMING A MAJOR LOCAL SOFTWARE USER

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the government may consider becoming a major local software user.

"We did it in the Prime Minister's Department recently. We would like to use more local products, including information and communications technology (ICT) products," Abdullah told reporters at the MSC ICT Policy Summit here.

"This would pave the way to using local products but local producers must raise their quality too. They cannot just hope that because things are produced locally, therefore we must use them.

"We would like to do so but we must also emphasised on the importance of quality products," he said when asked whether the government would use local software in its various ministry instead of foreign software products.

Abdullah said that to compete in a global ICT world, Malaysia must put more emphasis in meritocracy.

"It is not limited only to education. We are competing with everybody in the world ... competing to produce the best," he said.

"The ICT is for the young people. It is the responsibility of the young people to achieve Vision 2020 ... they are the ones."

At a dialogue session, Abdullah gave an assurance that he would continue with the development of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) after becoming the Prime Minister.

He said the MSC was initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was firmly committed to transforming Malaysia into a knowledge-based society. -- BERNAMA

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