

12 SEP 2003

BUDGET-INTERNET

INTERNET ACCESS CHARGES COME DOWN VIA 2004 BUDGET

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Internet charges will now be lower following proposals under the 2004 Budget.

Prime Minister-cum-Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in tabling the budget at the Dewan Rakyat here today, said Telekom Malaysia Bhd would reduce Internet access charges, including broadband access.

Industrial and corporate packages will see a 50 percent discount beginning with 30 percent for phase one and a further 20 percent for phase two.

Consumer Internet broadband will see a 30 percent reduction.

The 2004 Budget also proposed that Internet service provider Jaring be merged with TMnet, another Internet service provider owned by Telekom Malaysia, to ensure wider and more efficient Internet services.

Dr Mahathir said as Cyberjaya would become the hub for selected services, accessibility and quality of broadband services would be improved while the cost would be reduced to a more competitive level compared with other countries. -- BERNAMA

SHY SHY