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Mahathir-Divorce

STATE OF THE ART COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SHOULD NOT BE ABUSED

CYBERJAYA, July 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that although the advancement in technology has enabled people to communicate better, the state of the art technology should not be used too freely, such to divorce one's wife using the short messaging system (SMS).

Referring to one such case recently, the prime minister said that the advancement in technology had provided people with state of the art communication technology that nowadays people could even divorce their wives through SMS.

"I am not too keen on that but it has been accepted, perfectly legal, perfectly Islamic," he said when opening Ericsson's new regional hub and its Malaysian headquarters, Ericsson@MSC, here.

He said said that even though people needed to divorce their wives, they should take a much more personal approach than the SMS.

"We hope of course that instead of sending messages (to divorce), he would look at the picture of his beautiful wife, call and talk to her over the phone.

"Maybe she will cry and you will retract the move (to divorce). This is progress," he said.

The Gombak Syariah Court ruled on Thursday that a divorce declared via SMS was valid, provided it was verified by the court.

East Gombak Syariah judge Mohamad Fauzi Ismail ruled that the 18-month marriage between Azida Fazlina Abdul Latif and Shamsudin Latif was annulled when Shamsudin sent Azida Fazlina an SMS stating " Kalau engkau tak keluar dari rumah mak bapak engkau, jatuh talak tiga." (If you do not leave your parents' house, you will be divorced).

-- BERNAMA

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