

22 MAY 2003

MOGGIE-TOWER

A COMPANY WILL BE APPOINTED TO OPERATE TELCO TOWERS, SAYS MOGGIE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 22 (Bernama) -- A company will soon be tasked with the job of operating the telecommunication towers in the country.

Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie said there had been talks on the matter and a final agreement would be reached soon.

"We hope that it will be done very soon," he told reporters after launching the World Telecommunications Day 2003 (WTD), here today.

Currently, telcos are already sharing the usage of towers but there has been no formal agreement as yet, he said.

"Therefore, we want them to have a formal agreement," he said, adding that it would be the standard way of doing it in the future.

The sharing of telecommunications infrastructure are expected to optimise and consolidate the companies' resources while providing quality and cheaper services to customers and a wider area coverage.

The scope of the infrastructure sharing could cover the exchange of towers or sites, the sharing of cost to build new towers or sites and rental of towers or sites at an agreed rate.

Earlier in his speech, Moggie said the theme for this year's WTD celebration "Helping All the World's People to Communicate" was suitable and timely especially with the nation putting great efforts to be a leader in information communications technology (ICT).

He said the government felt that by becoming a leading nation in ICT, it would be able to produce an informed society and increase its productivity.

Commenting on the economic stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, Moggie said the package was a good move and necessary in order to ensure that the Malaysian economy continued to grow.

He said among others the package would provide better incentives for the Small and Medium Industries to grow and take a more flexible approach in attracting foreign direct investment. -- BERNAMA

TNS SD