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Virtual technology that saves time, money

CYBERJAYA, Wed. - Virtual technology which saves time, money and effort in the planning of projects is underutilised in this country, Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn Bhd vice-president Kamil Othman said.

He said virtual technology had been available in the country for the past year.

However, he said, many people preferred to use the conventional method in planning projects.

"By using virtual technology people can construct their dream homes virtually and make immediate changes. This saves a lot of time, money and effort," Kamil said after the media presentation of virtual reality content at the MSC flagship centre today.

The one-hour presentation will be put up for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday.

Kamil said Dr Mahathir had requested for the presentation as he was only given "foreign content" when he visited the centre last year.

The presentation will be on the Gerbang Perdana project, a threedimension model of the new Johor Baru/Singapore causeway and the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex.

This will be followed by "Ancient Malacca" - a digital format of recreating Malacca before the Portuguese invasion based on historical documents from local and foreign sources.

The third presentation will be on the Kuala Lumpur flood - a project to develop a flood simulation system, and finally the University of Malaya Medical Visualisation R&D project on 3-D hearts and femur implants.

Kamil also said many projects could have been saved if there was proper planning in the first place.

Virtual planning, he said, would be the best solution to overcome such problems as the developers could have a complete image of what the projects would look like in 3-D.

"By using virtual technology the construction industry will not have to depend much on architectural drawings as they can immediately walk through the corridors and inspect every corner of a building before building it."

He said the facility was free for government agencies and higher learning institutions. A fee of RM5,000 a day will be imposed for the commercial sector which wished to use this technology.